



MINUTES OF THE 151ST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON AUGUST 22, 2022

The 151st meeting of the Board of Management of the University was held in blended mode on 22.08.2022 at 11.00 a.m. in the Board Room, VCO Block, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110068

The following were present:

1.	Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor	- Chairman
2.	Prof. R.P. Das, Pro-Vice Chancellor	- Member
3.	Shri Mrutyunjay Behera, JS (HE), MOE	- Nominee, Secretary, MOE
4	Dr. Bansh Gopal Singh	- Member
5	Prof. K.K. Aggarwal	- Member
6	Prof. Ashok Sharma	- Member
7	Prof. Shachi Shah	- Member
8	Prof. Jitendra Kr. Srivastava	- Member
9	Dr. Bharat Bhushan	- Member
	Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar, Admn.	- Secretary

The Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting & Member of Board could not attend the meeting. Dr Dev Kant Rao, Director, Academic Coordination Division attended the meeting as Special Invitee.

Shri Kamal Kant Sahay, Deputy Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Board.

At the outset, Registrar, Administration, Dr. Alok Choube and Secretary, BOM welcomed all the Members to the Board meeting and invited the Chairman for his opening remarks. The Chairman, Board of Management, Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, welcomed all the members and appreciated Shri Mrutyunjay Behera, JS & Economic Adviser, MOE for sparing his precious time to attend the meeting in person. He specially welcomed Prof. K K Aggarwal, Chairman, National Board of Accreditation, who was re-nominated as member of the Board of Management.

Prof. K.K. Aggarwal also expressed his gratitude for his re-nomination to the Board and assured his full support and inputs in transacting business of the Board. The Vice Chancellor also welcomed Prof. Shachi Shah, Director, School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies for nomination to the Board who was attending the Board meeting for the first time. Prof. Ashok Sharma and Dr. Bansh Gopal Singh, external members of the Board were also welcomed by the Chairman, BOM.

The Chairman also placed on record his appreciation towards the contributions made by the outgoing member, Prof. K Ravi Sankar, former Director, School of Management Studies, during his tenure as member of the Board of Management.

Thereafter, the Chairman briefly narrated the significant developments in the university since the last BOM meeting, as under:

- i) **Welcome to New Visitor:** Her Excellency Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji has joined as President of India and Visitor of the University on 26th July, 2022. All the Members of the Board of Management expressed their sincere respects and regards to the New Visitor of the University. The University sought her blessings and expected her wholehearted support in furthering the initiatives taken by the University. The members exuded confidence that the guidance and support from the New Visitor of the University would further improve the overall academic operations of the University and take the University to new heights. The Board also acknowledged the contribution of His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji, former President of India and Visitor of the University, for his continuous support and guidance to the University that helped the University in achieving new milestones.
- ii) The University celebrated **the 76th Independent Day** as ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, with great enthusiasm at its Headquarters at Delhi and all the Regional Centers spread across length and breadth of the country. On this occasion an Exhibition on ‘Vibhajan ki Vibhishika’ was organized. There was also a great response of IGNOU fraternity to ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Abhiyan of the Govt. of India. All the Regional Centres of the University located in different parts of the country also celebrated Independence Day in their offices of the Regional Centres with great fervour. Lectures by Dr. Bal Mukund ji and Prof. Amarjeet Singh Narang on the eve of विभाजन की विभीषिका were also telecast on Gyan Darshan.
- iii) **SWAYAM Courses:** The University added 22 new courses to already available 129 courses on the SWAYAM Portal taking the total to 151 courses on offer in the January 2022 session. For the July 2022 session another 35 new courses are being added taking the total to 186 courses on

offer which is a significant contribution. For January 2022 Session, 1,25,111 learners registered for IGNOU Courses on SWAYAM portal.

In the July 2021 batch, out of 129 courses offered by IGNOU, 102 courses were adopted by learners from 126 Universities covering 24 States for credit transfer.

Total Courses offered by IGNOU on SWAYAM	Total Courses of IGNOU Adopted by Other Universities	Total Students enrolled	Total Universities adopting the Courses of IGNOU	Number of States covered
129	102	3681	126	24

- iv) **Online Programmes-** 18 new online programmes were added in the January 2022 session taking the total to 34 online programmes on offer. Popular UG and PG level programmes like MBA, MCA, MA English, MA in Journalism and Mass Communication, MA Rural Development, BCA, B. Com, Bachelor of Social Work, BA (Tourism Studies), Bachelor of Library and Information etc. are on offer in online mode. In the July 2022 session, another 7 programmes have been added taking the number to 41. The online programmes of the University were being offered through the dedicated IGNOU-LMS portal and online counselling is being conducted through online conferencing tool Google Meet by the Regional Centres. More than 10,000 learners have already enrolled for 41 online programmes as on date.

Apart from that, the University is also using the LMS platform for offering 26 programmes to about one thousand students registered under the Government of Guyana scholarship scheme.

The University has signed MoU with TCIL to offer 51 online programmes to 23 countries in Africa under the eVidya Bharti project of Ministry of External Affairs with 100% scholarship. The registration process is still on and more than 5000 students so far have enrolled for IGNOU programmes.

- v) **Live Sessions in Regional Languages on SWAYAM PRABHA:** From January 6, 2020, IGNOU started Live Sessions in 13 languages (12 regional languages and in English) on four SWAYAM Prabha Channels assigned to the University with the support of 14 Regional Centres across the country. As on date total of 1946 hours of live sessions have been conducted for the popular Under Graduate programmes in Social Sciences viz. History, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology and Environment Science. The live sessions are distributed across 4 channels for 13 hours

every day. The sessions are also available through live streaming as well as archived on YouTube. The live sessions of Channel 17 is also made available on the Gyan Darshan Channel of IGNOU. Apart from that the Live sessions of Gyan Darshan from 3.00 – 5.00 pm every day are also telecasted through the Channel 17 of SWAYAM Prabha. The details of session conducted so far is given below:

SWAYAM PRABHA Live Sessions in Regional Languages On SWAYAM Prabha					
Channel No.	Channel 17: Social Sciences and Humanities & EMPC	Channel 19: Professional and Vocational Education	Channel 18: Basic and Applied Sciences	Channel 20: SOUs and Teacher Education	Total Time Language wise
Hindi	133	5	-	2	140
Hindi / English (EMPC)	187	-	-	-	187
Tamil	128	3	1	-	132
Punjabi	120	4	-	1	125
Gujarati	130	4	1	-	135
Urdu	3	126	1	2	132
Malayalam	3	129	1	1	134
Odia	3	135	2	2	142
English	4	4	128	-	136
Telugu	4	5	129	2	140
Assamese	5	3	131	1	140
Marathi	4	3	2	128	137
Kannada	2	2	1	120	125
Bengali	4	4	2	131	141
Channel wise Total Timing	730	427	399	390	1946

- vi) The University has also started the **registration of six day NEP-UGC PDP** on 15th August, 2022 for 15 lakh teachers in the University and Colleges of the country. This scheme comprises registration on Samarth Platform, digital course material on Swayam Platform and delivery through Swayam Prabha Channels. AICTE has sent mails to more than 11,000 institutions for this awareness programme on 16th August, 2022.

- vii) Under the NEP implementation, the University is developing draft document for the implementation of 4 year UG and 1 year PG programmes in compliance with new UGC guidelines. The BA programmes in Arts, Science and Commerce have adopted a multidisciplinary approach with the combination of Ability Enhancement Courses in Environment Science and Languages (English & Hindi). Skill enhancement courses on different Indian Culture and Arts aspects are also being offered to the learners at the UG level.
- viii) In order to make BA programme holistic and multidisciplinary, courses worth more than 1000 credits were offered in the BA programme which is largest pool of courses in the country. B.A (Honours) programme has courses worth more than 1300 credits and students are expected to select 148 credits.
- ix) The University has filled up the posts of Director, Computer Division and Librarian. Dr. Murali M. Rao and Dr. VK Jagajeevan joined the University against these posts, respectively.
- x) During the last three years, 113 new programmes have been added. AICTE has recognized MBA ODL and MBA Online programmes along with MCA ODL and MCA Online programmes for a period of 5 years through its letter dated 31st May 2022. Out of 88 UG/PG programmes, 60 programmes were either new or revised programmes.
- xi) The examinations for June 22 sessions started on 22 July and will end on 5th September, 2022. 7.7 lakh students were appearing with 84% presence in the examinations. Out of 832 examination centers in India and 19 examination centres abroad, the university is also conducting examinations in 82 jail centres. Further more than two third of question papers were being delivered online.
- xii) The University has registered on the portal of **Academic Bank of Credits** of UGC for implementation of credit transfer policy and has developed the SOP for implementation of ABC at IGNOU. About 34 lakh students have enrolled till date on the ABC portal out of which 22 lakh students are from IGNOU.
- xiii) Increasing the footprint in regional languages, the University has started offering MA Journalism programme in Tamil language from July 2022 session.
- xiv) The University has started a course on “Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat” as an optional course for undergraduate programmes. Around 4000 learners were registered under this programme as on date.

- xv) To integrate skills with knowledge, 937 MSD-IGNOU centres were established all over the country. They are acting as the registration, examination, and skill centres of the University. 437 ITIs are also included in this list of IGNOU centers.
- xvi) Admission in the new academic session for July 2022 has crossed more than 6 lakh. It includes 2.82 lakh as the fresh registration. In MBA programme alone, the enrolment has crossed 10,000 which was a significant increase over more than a decade. The numbers of re-registered learners have gone over 3.5 lakh.
- xvii) Course based registration system is a unique system developed by IGNOU. Last year, 2,500 students were enrolled in various courses of IGNOU under this scheme.
- xviii) University's initiative to provide soft copy of the study material has promoted the use of digital media and digital courseware and the digital copy of the study material has been provided to about 20% fresh learners and 36% re-registered learners.
- xix) With the help of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, National Centre for Disability Studies IGNOU, initiated the process of supporting the learners with benchmarked disabilities of the University by providing vehicles and mobile vans on regular basis.

After the above prefatory remarks, the Secretary, BOM presented the following Agenda:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF 149TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON MAY 26, 2022 AND

- a) TO CONSIDER THE OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA AND MINUTES RECEIVED FROM THE MOE**
- b) TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT THEREON**

BM 151.1.1 The Secretary informed the Board that the Minutes of 149th meeting of the Board of Management held on May 26, 2022 were circulated to the members of the Board on 7th June, 2022. The MOE vide its letter dt. 14.06.2022 forwarded its comments on the Minutes of 149th BOM minutes which were placed before the Board.

Further the Board was also informed that the MOE vide its letter dt. 03.06.2022 had also forwarded its comments/observations on the agenda items of 149th meeting of the Board of Management, which were also placed before the Board.

The Board considered the comments/observations with respect to agenda and minutes, and noted that most of the comments were of compliance in nature with relevant statutory provisions/GOI rules and in consonance with the decision taken in the 149th BOM. The Board also noted the specific comments on certain agenda items alongwith clarifications/Action Taken thereon, placed before the Board.

BM 151.1.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board confirmed the Minutes of the 149th meeting without any change and also noted the Action Taken report thereon.

ITEM NO. 2 TO NOTE THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 150TH MEETING (EMERGENT) OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON JUNE 28, 2022 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT THEREON

BM 151.2.1 The Board noted the action taken report on the **minutes of 150th (Emergent) meeting (Appendix-1)** held on 28.6.2022 as the minutes had already been confirmed by the Board in its earlier meeting.

TEM NO. 3 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN APPOINTING/GIVING CHARGE OF DIRECTORS OF SCHOOL

BM 151.3.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in appointment/giving charge of Directorship of Schools to the following Teachers as per details given below:

#	Name of Teacher their designation	School	Period of Appointment/ Charge given
01	Prof. Suhas Shetgaokar, Professor of Psychology, SOSS	School of Social Sciences (SOSS)	01.07.2022 to 30.06.2025
02	Prof. Meenal Mishra, Professor of Geology, SOS	School of Sciences (SOS)	09.07.2022 to 08.07.2025
03	Prof. CB Sharma, Professor, SOE	School of Education (SOE)	01.08.2022 to 30.06.2025
04	Prof. Rekha Sharma Sen Professor of Child Development, SOCE	School of Continuing Education (SOCE)	01.06.2022 to 31.05.2025

05	Prof. Ruchika Kuba Professor of Health Science SOHS	School of Health Sciences (SOHS)	01.06.2022 to 31.05.2025
06	Dr. PK Jain, Associate Professor, SOA	School of Agriculture (SOA)	25.06.2022 to 24.06.2025
07	Prof. RSP Singh, Professor SOVET	School of Vocational Education and Training (SOVET)	25.06.2022 to 24.06.2025
08	Prof. Nehal A Farooquee, Professor, SOEDS	School of Extension and Development Studies (SOEDS)	25.06.2022 to 24.06.2025
09	Prof. MSS Raju Professor, Commerce	School of Management Studies (SOMS)	05.08.2022 to 30.06.2025

ITEM NO. 4 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN SANCTIONING THE EXTRA ORDINARY LEAVE (EOL) OF THREE YEARS W.E.F 21.06.2022 (A/N) TO PROF. ANJILA GUPTA, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, SOSS TO ENABLE HER, TO JOIN AS VICE CHANCELLOR

BM 151.4.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in sanctioning the EOL of three years w.e.f. 21.06.2022 (A/N) to Prof. Anjila Gupta, SOSS to enable her to join as Vice Chancellor of the Jamshedpur Women's University, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.

ITEM NO. 5 TO RATIFY ACTION TAKEN ON SIGNING OF THE MOU BETWEEN IGNOU & TCIL RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR OFFERING ONLINE PROGRAMMES IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

BM 151.5.1 The Board ratified the action taken on signing of the MOU with TCIL received from the Ministry of External Affairs for offering online programmes in African countries.

ITEM NO. 6 (A) TO REPORT THE SIGNING OF NEW MOU BETWEEN IGNOU AND INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA (ICAI) ON MAY 27, 2022 AND THE FURTHER AMENDMENT THERETO SIGNED ON JULY 22, 2022

(B) TO REPORT THE SIGNING OF NEW MOU BETWEEN IGNOU AND THE INSTITUTE OF COMPANY SECRETARIES OF INDIA (ICSI)

BM 151.6.1 The Board noted the signing of new MOUs with the following institutes:

- (i) MOU with the Institute of Cost Accounts of India (ICAI) on 27.5.2022 and further amendment thereto signed on 22.7.2022.
- (ii) MOU with the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) on 12.7.2022.

ITEM NO. 7 TO APPRISE THE STATUS REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:

- (i) GRIEVANCES RECEIVED AND DISPOSED OFF ON PG PORTAL AND IGRAM PORTAL**
- (ii) VIGILANCE CASES PENDING IN THE UNIVERSITY; AND**
- (iii) PARLIAMENTARY ASSURANCES PENDING IN THE UNIVERSITY**

BM 151.7.1 The Board noted the status report on the grievances received and disposed off on PG Portal and iGRAM Portal (**Appendix-2**). The Board also noted the status of the vigilance cases closed after 149th BOM held on 26.05.2022 and that there are only one or two pending vigilance cases which are under process in the University (**Appendix-3**). The Board was informed that there was no parliamentary assurance pending in the University.

BM 151.7.2 While deliberating the status of grievances, the Board, noting the commendable efforts being made by the University in disposal of grievances, also suggested that grievances of learners along with their appeals be addressed on priority basis at regular intervals.

ITEM NO. 08 TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POSTS OF PROFESSORS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS AND ASSISTANT PROFESSORS ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT BASIS

BM 151.08.1 The Board was informed that the University had advertised the posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor vide Advt No. 02/2021/ACD, dated 30.11.2021 issued in Employment News on 4-10th December 2021. The last date of receiving online application was 05.01.2022. The applications were invited through Online Portal in coordination with Samarth. In response to the advertisement, the University had processed the applications as per UGC Regulations on Minimum qualifications for appointment of Teachers and other Academic staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in

higher education, 2018 and conducted the Selection Committee meetings for appointment to the posts of Professor in the Discipline of Life Sciences in the School of Sciences (SOS), Professor in the Discipline of Computer & Information Science in the School of Computer & Information Science (SOCIS) and Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in the Discipline of Child Development in the School of Continuing Education (SOCE). The recommendations of the Selection Committee were placed before the Board. The Board approved the recommendations of the Selection Committees, as per details given below:

Date of Selection Committee Meeting	Position(s)	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee
28 th July 2022	Appointment to the post of Professor (Life Sciences) (UR-01) in the School of Sciences (SOS) in the Academic level 14 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 1,44,200-2,18,200/-)	1. Dr. Aryadeep Roy Choudhury <u>Waiting list</u> 1. Dr Vinod Singh Gour
28 th July 2022	Appointment to the post of Professor (Computer & Information Science) (OBC-01) in the School of Computer & Information Science (SOCIS) in the Academic level 14 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 1,44,200-2,18,200/-)	1. Dr. Divakar Yadav <u>Waiting list</u> 1. Dr Vibhash Yadav
28 th July 2022	Appointment to the post of Professor (Computer & Information Science) (ST-01) in the School of Computer & Information Science (SOCIS) in the Academic level 14 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 1,44,200-2,18,200/-)	1. Dr. Sandeep Singh Rawat
28 th July 2022	Appointment to the post of Associate Professor, Discipline of Child Development (UR-01) in the School of Continuing Education (SOCE) in the Academic level 13A of 7 th CPC (Rs. 1,31,400-2,17,100/-)	1. Dr. Priyanka Suryavanshi <u>Waiting list</u> 1. Dr Dimple Rangila 2. Dr Navita Abrol
28 th July 2022	Appointment to the post of Assistant Professor, Discipline of Child Development	1. Dr. Hemlata Chand

	(PwBD(c)-01) in the School of Continuing Education (SOCE) in the Academic level 10 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 57,700-1,42,400/-)	
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BM 151.8.2 The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed that the Appointment letters to the selected candidates for the above teaching posts be issued accordingly. The Board also directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard.

ITEN NO.9 TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF SCREENING CUM EVALUATION COMMITTEE/ SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTIONS OF TEACHERS AND ACADEMICS UNDER CAREER ADVANCEMENT SCHEME (CAS)

BM 151.9.1 The Board was informed that the University had conducted “Screening-cum-Evaluation Committees/Selection Committee” for Career Advancement of Teachers of the University as per Ordinance on Career Advancement Scheme of Teachers as per “UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the maintenance of standards in higher education) Regulations, 2010” alongwith subsequent amendment thereto under 6th CPC, and Ordinance on Career Advancement Scheme of Teachers as per “UGC Regulations on Minimum qualifications for appointment of Teachers and other Academic staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in higher education, 2018” under 7th CPC duly approved by the Visitor. The recommendations of the Screening cum Evaluation Committee/Selection Committees were placed before the Board for consideration. The Board approved the recommendations of the “Screening cum Evaluation Committees/Selection Committees”, as per details given below:

S. No.	Date of Selection Committee	Position(s)	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee	Due date of eligibility
1.	28 th July, 2022	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Stage	Dr. Biplab Jamatia	11.05.2016

		3/Academic Level 12) to Associate Professor (Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Health Sciences in the School of Health Sciences (SOHS)		
2.	28 th July, 2022	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Stage 2/Academic Level 11/Senior scale) to Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Stage 3/Academic Level 12) in School of Computer & Information Sciences (SOCIS)	Dr. Sudhansh Sharma	21.06.2021
3.	28 th July, 2022	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Stage 1/Academic Level 10) to Assistant Professor (Senior scale /Stage 2/Academic Level 11) in the Discipline of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering & Technology (SOET)	Dr. Shweta Tripathi	22.12.2016

BM 151.9.2 The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed that Promotion Orders under CAS be issued accordingly. The Board also directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard.

ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF INQUIRY OFFICER IN RESPECT OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AGAINST ER. K K BHAT, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGIONAL CENTRE JAMMU FOR FAILING TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES IN THE CONDUCT OF THE TERM END EXAMINATION DECEMBER 2019 SMOOTHLY IN THE JAMMU REGION

BM 151.10.1 The Board was informed that the University had received some complaints regarding conduct of December 2019 Term End Examinations at Regional Centre-Jammu including reported leakage of question papers of B.Ed. Exams (BES-128(S) and BES-129(S), held on 7th and 8th January

2020. The matter was examined by the Examination Committee constituted to monitor the conduct of Term End Examinations etc. and prima facie it appeared that Shri Kuldeep Kumar Bhat, Regional Director, Regional Centre, Jammu had failed to perform his overall duties for the process of conduct and monitoring of the Term End Examination December 2019 smoothly in the Jammu Region. Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred to the Vice Chancellor under Clause (1) of Statute 19 of Statutes of the University under IGNOU Act, 1985 read with Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 10 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules 1965, Shri Kuldeep Kumar Bhat, Regional Director, Jammu was placed under suspension with effect from 09.01.2020 till further orders vide dated 9th January 2020. The Vice Chancellor had also constituted a Fact Finding Committee under the Chairpersonship of Prof. RR Kanhere, the then Pro-Vice Chancellor & Member BOM, IGNOU on 09.01.2020 to investigate the whole matter relating to the reported leakage of B.Ed. question papers in Jammu Region. In its Report, the Committee observed slackness on the part of Shri K K Bhat, RD. Accordingly, on the basis of the Report of the Committee, a Chargesheet was issued to Shri Kuldeep Kumar Bhat, Regional Director, Jammu vide Memorandum F.No. IG/TA/1/229/95/Vol.IV/ 6552 dated 05.03.2020.

The Board noted that the major penalty proceedings under Rule 14 of CCS (CCA) Rules 1965 were initiated and Inquiry Officer and Presenting Officer were appointed vide Office orders dated 21st October 2020. The Disciplinary proceedings were conducted. The Inquiry Officer submitted his report. The report was shared with Er KK Bhat vide letter dated 19.01.2022. Er KK Bhat retired from services of the University on 30.04.2020 and a provisional pension was sanctioned to Er KK Bhat vide Office Order dated 08.2.2021 w.e.f. 1.5.2020.

Findings of Inquiry Officer and matter related to payment of provisional pension was placed before the 149th meeting of Board of Management held on 26th May 2022. The Board took a serious view regarding non-responsive attitude of Sh KK Bhat and decided to send him last reminder for explaining his position on the outcome of the inquiry report. The Board also decided to continue his provisional pension till that time.

A reminder on the directions of the Board was sent to Sh. KK Bhat on 19.07.2022 and in response to which Sh. Bhat submitted that he has already submitted his defence against the inquiry report and resubmitted

his comments. A comparative statement prepared as per reply of Er K K Bhat on the report and the charges/findings in the inquiry report was placed before the Board of Management for its consideration.

BM 151.10.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board decided to impose the major penalty of reduction of pay of Shri K K Bhatt by two increments w.e.f. 1st May 2019, till the date of his retirement (i.e. April 2020) with cumulative effect. Shri KK Bhat will not earn any annual increment during this period. The reduction will have effect on his pension and his pension will be fixed on the revised pay arrived at after reduction of two increments. The amount recoverable due to reduction of his pay, will be recovered from his last month's salary and gratuity.

ITEM NO. 11 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022

BM 151.11.1 The draft Annual Report of the University for the year 2021-22 having a typescript size of 248 pages, was briefly presented before the Board. The Board noted the brief details mentioned in the Annual Report regarding curricular aspects, teaching-learning and evaluation, research, innovation and extension, infrastructure & learning resources, learner support, governance, leadership and management, institutional values and best practices. A brief of NEP 2020 implementation was also narrated before the Board.

The Board was also informed that the Ministry of Education vide its letter No.12-2/2022-DL dt.10.08.2022 has forwarded the SC/ST Cell's OM No.11-7/2022-SC/ST dt.29.7.2022 for inclusion of the matter in respect of persons with disability in the Annual Report of the O/o Chief Commission of Disabilities for the year 2021-22. The Board noted the contents of the aforesaid OM.

BM 151.11.2 After detailed discussions, the Board approved the draft Annual Report of the University for the Year 2021-22 with the direction to include the relevant provision in the Annual Report as mentioned in the SC/ST Cell's OM dt.29.7.2022 of the Ministry of Education. The Board further authorized the University to submit the same to the Ministry for placing before both the Houses of the Parliament, as required under Section 28, read with provision under Statute 25 of the IGNOU Act.

The Board confirmed the above item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for taking necessary action.

ITEM NO. 12 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEES AND FINAL LIST OF SELECTED CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

BM 151.12.1 The Board was informed that the posts of Assistant Registrar 21 (UR-13, ST-01, OBC-05 and EWS-02) were published vide Advertisement No.58/2020/Admn in the Employment News dt.28.11.2020. The job to conduct the written examination for the posts of Assistant Registrar was awarded to National Testing Agency (NTA) under MHRD as approved by the BOM 139.14.1) held on 17.3.2020. Accordingly online application portal for the post of Assistant Registrar against the above advertisement was handled by the NTA for conducting written examination with opening date 01-12-2020 and closing date 31-12-2020. In response, total 29,598 candidates had submitted their applications out of which 16,623 candidates appeared in the written test conducted on 24-01-2021. The result of the written test was declared by the NTA on 16-06-2021 on their website.

It was also informed that a Screening Committee was constituted vide Notification No.586 dated 6th July, 2021 to shortlist the candidates in different categories to be called for Interview. The duly approved Screening Committee had short-listed the 148+1* (78 candidates under UR category, 15 candidates under ST category, 35+1* candidates under OBC (NCL) category and 20 candidates under EWS category) on the basis of marks scored in the written test by the candidates. The list of short-listed candidates was uploaded on the IGNOU website on 17-11-2021. The Interviews for the above said posts were held on 02-05-2022 to 07-05-2022 (except on 03-05-2022).

The Board noted that the online applications for the post of Assistant Registrar (PwBD) against the Advertisement No.61 dated 03-07-2020 were invited through SAMARTH Portal with opening date 05-07-2021 and closing date 04-11-2020. Total 116 online applications were received (VH-26 and OH-90). The duly approved Screening Committee met on 13.12.2021 and had short-listed 35 candidates (15-VH and 20-OH) and the list of short-listed candidates was uploaded on the IGNOU website on 14-12-2021. The Interview for the post of Assistant Registrar (PwBD) was

held on 05-05-2022.

Further, a Committee was constituted vide Notification dated 07-05-2022 duly approved by the Competent Authority to prepare the merit list of the candidates (considering the marks scored in the written test and in the interview) on the basis of the Board of Management decision taken in its 137th meeting held on 16.10.2019 vide Item No. 137.9.2 for the post of Assistant Registrar. Accordingly, the merit lists for candidates of UR, EWS and ST categories have been prepared in the meetings of the above mentioned Committee held on 10-08-2022 and 11-08-2022. The matter is pending in the Hon'ble High court of Delhi vide W.P.(C) 9519/2022 and CM APPL. 28410/2022 restraining to make appointment under OBC (NCL) category.

The final list of selected candidates, in order of merit, alongwith recommendations of the Selection Committees for the post of Assistant Registrar (UR 13, ST 01, EWS 02, and PwD 02) was placed before the Board.

BM 151.12.2 The Board considered and approved the following recommendations for Assistant Registrar:

Date of the Meeting	Positions	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee	
05.05.2022	Appointment to the post of Assistant Registrar (PwD-OH-01 Locomotor Disability) in Level-10 of 7th CPC, Pay Matrix (56100-177500)	Sandeep Kumar Waiting List: 1. Brajesh Kumari 2. Amit Daras 3. Prem Chandra 4. Shilpa Misra	<i>Permanent Disability Certificate is required to be checked for all</i>
	Appointment to the post of Assistant Registrar (PwD-VH-01 Persons with Blindness & Low Vision) in Level-10 of 7th CPC, Pay Matrix (56100-177500)	Nishith Nagar Waiting List: 1. G. Balaji 2. Vaibha Shukla 3. Shrikant 4. Vipul Ratnesh	

10-11/8/2022	Appointment to the post of Assistant Registrar in Level-10 of 7th CPC (56100-177500)	<p><u>Un-reserved category (UR):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sawan Chahal (UR) 2. Anamika (UR) 3. Reetu Siwach (UR) 4. Mannu Hooda (UR) 5. Jyoti (UR) 6. Babita Rani (UR) 7. Manisha Rani (UR) 8. Suman Devi (UR) 9. Gyan Prakash Singh (UR) 10. Ravinder Verma (OBC (NCL) (Against UR) 11. Vipin Kumar Bhargava (UR) 12. Rakesh Kumar (UR) 13. Amit Kumar (UR) <p><u>Economically Weaker Section (EWS):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yogesh Kumar 2. Vikram Kumar <p>Waiting list:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shashank Tripathi 2. Arpit Kumar 3. Parvesh Kr. Thakur <p><u>Scheduled Tribe (ST) category:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jagram Meena <p>Waiting list:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Naresh B 2. Vivek Kr. Meena
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BM 151.12.3 As regards the OBC (NCL) candidates for the post of Assistant Registrar, the merit list for the OBC (NCL) category and the waitlist for UR category have not been opened in view of W.P.(C) 9519/2022 & CM APPL.28410/2022 under Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

The Board confirmed the above item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for taking necessary action.

ITEM NO. 13 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF INQUIRY IN RESPECT OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING UNDER RULE 14 OF CCS (CCA) RULES, 1965 AGAINST SH. SAPAN KUMAR RAM, THE THEN ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, KOLKATA PRESENTLY POSTED AT RC, SILIGURI

BM 151.13.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram, Assistant Registrar joined the services of the University w.e.f. 27.09.2010 and was posted at the IGNOU Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar and later transferred to Regional Centre, Kolkata on compassionate grounds. While functioning as Assistant Registrar at Regional Centre, Kolkata and entrusted with the duties of DDO, has entered into various fraudulent financial transactions by withdrawing huge sum of public money amounting to Rs.40,84,050/- from “IGNOU PGDLAN NO.11334349790 (OLD A/C NO. 01100020453) maintained at SBI, Bikash Bhawan, Kolkata from 02/02/2016 to 01/03/2016, and depositing part of the same into his personnel accounts viz. (a) 31770031452 and 10836559963 maintained at SBI, Bikash Bhawan, Kolkata and (b) 0702104000054144 and 0702104000054436 maintained at IDBI Bank, Kestopur, Kolkata in his wife’s name, i.e., Ms. Seema Sapan Kumar.

The Board was further informed that on 27th March, 2014, by a letter, jointly signed by him and the Regional Director, IGNOU RC Kolkata (Dr. K.S. Chakraborty) requested the IDBI Bank, Kestopur Branch, Kolkata to issue a DD for Rs.62,89,200/- from IGNOU Fees Account No.0702104000056391 in favour of IGNOU payable at Kolkata in order to remit the same to IGNOU, HQ. With the fraudulent motive, he retained the said DD No.002046 dated 29.03.2014 received from aforesaid Bank with him, by neither depositing the same in any Bank at Kolkata nor sending the same to IGNOU, Delhi. With a motive to utilize the public money for his personal gain, amounting to Rs.62,89,200/- obtained by him by way of revalidated DD No.3675 dated 29.01.2016 from IDBI Keshtopur Branch, Kolkata by depositing the same in the inoperative A/c No.11334349790 (old a/c No.01100020453) at SBI Bikash Bhawan Branch, Kolkata, by personally approaching the authorities of said SBI Branch on 30.12.2015 and submitted two letters, typed on IGNOU letter head by computer, but signed differently (not tallying with his normal signatures), i.e., (i) one for changing name of the account from IGNOU-PGDLAN to IGNOU to be operated by him only; and (ii) for issuing cheque book. After having the said SBI account

operative, Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram on 29.01.2016, presented the old DD (3675 dated 29.03.2014) to the issuing Branch of IDBI for revalidation. He got the revalidated DD bearing No.3675 dated 29.01.2016 credited in the said SBI account by local clearance on the next date, i.e., 30 Jan. 2016.

It was also informed that Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram by affixing his different signatures, by entering into twelve different transactions between 02.02.2016 and 01.03.2016, withdrew a total amount of Rs.40,84,250/- from the said account without the knowledge of the Regional Director. Out of the withdrawn money, an amount of Rs.7,18,000/- was deposited by Sh. Ram in his personal accounts and account of his wife Ms. Seema Sapan Kumar. By his act of twelve fraudulent financial transactions, drawn for his personal purposes, Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram is alleged to have committed fraud on the University and thus violated the Rules of CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 viz., Rule 3(1)(i) - Failed to maintain absolute integrity, Rule (ii) - Failed to maintain devotion to duty; and (iii)-Conduct unbecoming of a Servant. Accordingly, Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram was suspended on 26.04.2016 on account of Criminal offences which was under investigation by the CBI vide case No.RC0102016A003 dated 4.3.2016 and reported to the Board of Management, being the Appointing Authority of the University in its 125th meeting held on 23.07.2016 for ratification.

The Board also noted that the CBI vide case No.RC0102016A003 dt.04.03.2016 submitted its recommendations vide Para 10(iv) which reads as under:

*‘In view of the facts and circumstances of the case as mentioned above, CBI recommends **prosecution** against Shri Sapan Kumar Ram (A-1), the then Assistant Registrar, IGNOU, Kolkata Regional Centre u/s. 409, 420, 468, 471 IPC and sec 13(2) r/w 13(1)(c) & 13(1)(d) of PC Act, 1988 after obtaining required sanction order for prosecution against Shri S K Ram (A-1) from the competent authority.’*

On the request of the CBI vide its letter No.RC0102016A003-CBI/ACB/KOL dt.09.06.2016, Sanction Order for prosecution of Sh. Sapan Kumar was sent to the Superintendent of Police, CBI-ACB, Kolkata.

The CVC vide its circular No.08/07/2018 dt.31.7.2018 referred to the judgements of Hon'ble Supreme Court and guidelines of DoPT to take simultaneous action of prosecution and initiation of departmental proceedings against the charged officer.

Accordingly, a Charge Sheet dated 14.03.2017 was issued. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma, Assistant Registrar was appointed as Presenting Officer vide F.No.AD/2/NA/548 dt.05.05.2017 and Shri G.P. Bhatia, CLS (Retd.) was appointed as Inquiry Officer vide Order No.714 dated 05.05.2017 to inquire into the article of misconduct alleged. The Inquiry Officer in his findings stated that appreciation of documentary and oral evidences brought on record by the PO, and further depositing of Rs.40,84,250/- of the fraudulent withdrawals made by the Charged Officer, which amounts to admission of guilt by Charged Officer, he held the Charge alleged against Charged Officer stands proved. Thus, he held the Charged Officer guilty of violating the sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 of the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964, namely:

- (i) Rule 3(1)(i) – (Failing to maintain absolute integrity)
- (ii) Rule 3(1)(ii) – (Failing to maintain devotion to duty)
- (iii) Rule 3(i)(iii) – (Conduct unbecoming of a servant)

The Disciplinary Authority accepted the Inquiry Report on 20.02.2019 and the same was forwarded to the Charged Officer on 1.3.2019 to make any representation or submissions, if he wishin writing to the Disciplinary Authority within 15 days, however, no representation received in furtherance to the said communication. Before the submission of the Inquiry Report by the Inquiry Authority, Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram, the Charged Officer preferred a WP(C) 7948/2018 before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to quash ad set aside the impugned Charge Sheet dated 14.3.2017 and Daily Orders of the enquiries held by the Inquiry Authority. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dismissed the Writ Petition and the CMs as infructuous and ordered that *“The case of the petitioner is that the Inquiry Officer has not followed the procedure as contemplated in law. The petitioner would be within his right to raise such pleas before the Disciplinary Authority/Appellate Authority and even before the Court of Law but only after a final order is passed.”*

Further, with the approval of the Disciplinary Authority, the Inquiry Report was forwarded to Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram, Assistant Registrar, IGNOU Regional Centre, Raghunathganjon 19.03.2021 by stating that if he wishes to make any representation or submission, he may do so in

writing within 15 days of receipt of this letter. The same was returned with remarks by mentioned on 06 various dates “Door Locked” and on 02 different dates “Long time absent”. In view of returned back of Inquiry Report by the Postal Authorities, the Inquiry Report again forwarded to Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram vide letter dated 29.06.2021 in a confidential envelop through the Regional Director, IGNOU RC Kolkata vide our letter dated 5.7.2021 with a request to deliver the confidential envelop to Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram.

In the meanwhile, Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram filed a LPA dated 12.4.2021 before the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi against the order dated 15.02.2021 in WP (C) No.7948/2018. The matter was disposed of by the Hon’ble High Court and the Para-8 of the order is re-produced:-

Para-8 In our view, the impugned judgment are only the observations made by the Ld. Single Judge in Paragraph 17 of the impugned judgment are only for the purpose of progressing the disciplinary proceedings right up till the stage it is dealt with by disciplinary authority/appellate authority, and therefore, cannot have any impact on the months of the proceedings, pending before the enquiry officer.

Para-9 The Registry will dispatch a copy of this order to respondents. In case, the respondents have any difficulty with the observations made hereinabove, they would have liberty to approach the Court. The appellant will also place the order passed today both before the Enquiry Officer and the respondents.

Accordingly, the copy of Inquiry report was once again forwarded to the Charged Officer through the Regional Director, Kolkata vide letter dated 18.01.2022 which was delivered by special messenger to Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram. Since he informed on 02.03.2022 that the copy of the Inquiry Report is very difficult to read/illegible/unclear/blurry/indecipherable/unreadable/ hazy with dark black background and requested to provide him the clear/clean copy, a copy of the Inquiry Report was again forwarded to Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram vide letter dated 25.03.2022 and as informed by the Regional Director, RC Siliguri, Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram has not yet reported for duty, hence a copy of the Inquiry Report also forwarded to Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram through his email id sapanssk@gmail.com from the office of the Registrar, Administration vide email dated 29th March, 2022 and also a copy of the Inquiry Report forwarded to his given residential address at Kolkata i.e., Deepjyoti Apartment, B-Block, Flat No.303, 11, Itaigacha Road, Dum

Dum Airport, Kolkata-700 028 on 8th April, 2022 which was also returned with remarks “door locked Final I/s dt.16.4.2022”

The Board was apprised that since the Inquiry Report already received by Sh. Sapan Kumar Ramon 2.3.2022 and further the same was sent to him through his given email on 29.3.2022, he has option to submit his representation on the Inquiry Report to the Disciplinary Authority within 10 days of the receipt of the report but no such representation has been received in the Administration Division. Further, Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram has not reported for duty at Regional Centre, Siliguri on his transfer and relieving from Regional Centre, Kolkata on 9.3.2022 (A/N).

BM 151.13.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board resolved to award Compulsory Retirement to Sh. Sapan Kumar with all the retirement benefit as per rules. The Board further opined that a copy of the Sanction Order for prosecution letter No.1-14(2957)/LC/2016/8575 dt. 23.6.2016 be again sent to the CBI.

BM 151.13.3 The Board confirmed the above item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for taking necessary action.

ITEM NO. 14 TO CONSIDER THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN PLACING DR SAURABH JAIN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DISCIPLINE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES, SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES UNDER SUSPENSION WITH EFFECT FROM 05.07.2022 IN RESPECT OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 376 & 506 (FIR NO. 443/2022)

BM 151.14.1 The Board was informed that Dr Saurabh Jain had joined the University as Assistant Professor, Discipline of Management Studies in the School of Management Studies under PwBD(a) category on 7.10.2021 and he is on probation in the University. A case is under investigation against Dr. Saurabh Jain, Assistant Professor, SOMS in respect of a criminal offence under section 376 & 506 (FIR No. 443/2022) by Police Station, Neb Sarai, New Delhi-110068 and Dr. Saurabh Jain has been detained and was in custody of Delhi Police on 05/07/2022 for a period exceeding Forty Eight hours.

The Board was further informed that in terms of Sub Rule (2) (a) of Rule 10 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965, Dr. Saurabh Jain, Assistant Professor, SOMS has been

suspended with effect from the date of detention i.e. w.e.f. 05.07.2022 until further orders with the approval of the Vice Chancellor vide Office Order No. 473, F.No. IG/TA/1/1040/2021/11782, dated 11.07.2022. A decision on subsistence allowance admissible to him during the period of his suspension would be taken as per rules.

BM 151.14.2 After due deliberations, the Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in placing Dr Saurabh Jain, Assistant Professor, Discipline of Management Studies, School of Management Studies under suspension with effect from 05.07.2022 till further orders.

ITEM NO. 15 TO CONSIDER THE REPRESENTATION OF SHRI M RAJAMANNAR, DY. DIRECTOR, EMPC ON THE PENALTY AWARDED TO HIM BY BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AT ITS 149TH MEETING

BM 151.15.1 The Director, ACD informed the Board that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had initiated disciplinary proceedings against Shri Rajamannar for irregularities committed by him in discharging his duties, which resulted in huge loss to the state's exchequer authority amounting to approx. Rs.73.70 crores and forwarded the draft Memorandum containing the statement of Articles of Charge, statement Imputation of misconduct/misbehaviors in support of each Article of Charge, a list of documents by which the articles of charge are proposed to be sustained. The Board had approved the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against Shri M. Rajamannar and a memorandum number IG/TA/1/515/05 dated 13th June 2016 was issued to Shri M. Rajamannar. Shri Rajamannar replied vide letter dated 06.08.2016. Accordingly copy of reply received from Shri Rajamannar was forwarded to CVO, IGNOU for onward transmission to CVO, I & B. Copy of Report and reply was sent to the Ministry of I & B vide letter No.IG/TA/1/515/94 dt.18.8.2016. Vide their letter dt.14.11.2017, Ministry of I & B informed that "*this proves that the replies furnished by Shri Rajamannar is not satisfactory and are not acceptable. As such necessary action may be taken to initiate Major Penalty proceedings against Shri Rajamannar, presently working as producer EMPC, IGNOU under relevant rules under intimation to this Ministry.*"

Accordingly, the major penalty proceedings were initiated. The Inquiry Officer submitted his report on 21st March 2022. The report was shared

with Shri M. Rajamannar vide letter dated 4th April 2022 and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting vide letter dated 5th April 2022. Shri M. Rajamannar submitted his comments on the report of the Inquiry Officer a copy of which was forwarded to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

The Ministry of I&B vide their letter No.M-27011/6/2014-MUC-II dated 9th June 2022 informed that *“the findings of Inquiry report with regard to charge under Article I levied against Shri M Rajamannar is proved and the charge under Article II is yet to be concluded. Hence as per above findings, IGNOU may take up necessary action in the matter as deemed fit, as per extant rules and regulations. Further the Ministry of I&B has no comments to offer as the investigations and all necessary actions are being taken by IGNOU.”*

It was further informed that the findings of Inquiry Officer and reply thereon by Shri M Rajamannar were placed before the Board of Management at its 149th Meeting held on 26.05.2022 and the Board decided to impose the major penalty of reduction of pay of Shri M. Rajamannar by three increments w.e.f. 1st May, 2022 till the date of his retirement (i.e. April, 2023) with cumulative effect. Shri M. Rajamannar will not earn any annual increment during this period. The reduction will have effect of postponing his future increments, if otherwise admissible. Accordingly, as per the decision of BOM, the Order of Penalty was issued vide Office Order No. 455 dated 6th July 2022. Shri M. Rajamannar vide his letter no. Nil dated 8.07.2022 represented against the penalty imposed and requested to review the decision citing that *“the loss incurred to the Govt because of Ministry of I&B and not him”*. Vide his letter dated 18.07.2022 he also represented the matter regarding reduction of 3 increments to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, a copy of which was marked to IGNOU.

BM 151.15.2 The Board considered and deliberated upon the representation of Sh. M. Rajamannar and decided not to withdraw the award of major penalty of reduction of pay by three increments w.e.f.01.05.2022 till the date of his retirement, as decided by the Board in its 149th meeting.

ITEM NO.16 TO CONSIDER THE MATTER RELATED TO ABSENCE AND REGULARLY TAKING LEAVE WITHOUT PERMISSION BY DR SEEMA JOHRI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SOPVA

BM 151.16.1 The Board was informed that Dr. Seema Johri, Associate Professor, SOPVA was on EOL on personal grounds for 02 years w.e.f. 15.10.2019 vide Office Order No.376 dated 31st October, 2019. She joined back the University before completion of EOL on 07.06.2021. Subsequently Director, SOPVA vide their Note dated 13.12.2021 informed that Dr. Seema Johari is in habit of taking leave on one pretext or other and has availed various leaves without permission as well as has been absent from duty unauthorizedly without any information.

The details of her leave/absence without permission was placed before the Board. The Board was also informed that on several occasions, Dr. Seema Johari, Associate Professor availed leave by entering the leave in ODL Soft, but did not submit the same, rather kept them in the saved format. Till date she has availed leave of 121 days in excess of leave available to her credit.

The Board was further informed that the University vide its communication No. IG/TA/1/704/09/ dated 19th May, 2022 sought to know reasons for her absence from duties without intimation/prior approval and asked her to explain as to why this period of leave be not treated as unauthorized absence from duties and to deduct her salary for these days, Dr Seema Johri in her reply dated 23.05.2022 replied as under:

“Director SOPVA **की** complaint के विषय में निवेदन है कि मैंने ODL leave balance update करने हेतु कई बार निवेदन किया परंतु कोई सहयोग प्राप्त नहीं हुआ। अन्य कारण सलगन उत्तर में mention कर दिए हैं। आश्चर्य है की लोग बड़ी बड़ी विसंगतियों पर मौन रहते हैं। निजी स्वार्थों की पूर्ति में तल्लीन रहते हैं। परंतु दूसरों के superqualified, ईमानदार बच्चों पर अछेप करते हैं। मेरे parents के जाने के बाद जीवन संघर्ष का पर्याय बन गया। शारीरिक और मांशिक कष्टों ने घेर लिया जिसके कारण मुझे पिछले समय की बार अवकाश लेना पड़ा। निवेदन यही है भविष्य में इस तरह की एक पछयी complaint जो मानसिक पीड़ा का कारण बनती है, की जवाबदेही से पूर्व, अधोहस्ताछरकर्ता को सजाए मौत दे दी जाए।”.

BM 151.16.2 The Board took unauthorized absence and the letter received from Dr Seema Johri seriously. After detailed deliberations, the Board decided as under:

1. The case of Dr. Seema Johri, Associate Professor be referred to the University Panel Doctor in the first instance for examining her mental health condition.
2. Record of attendance of Dr Seema Johri be maintained. Dr Johri will mark her daily presence of entry and leaving the office in the office of Director, SOITS.
3. Dr Seema Johri will submit the details of academic activities of courses, different courses revised, student support, and organisation of workshops etc., undertaken by her during last three years (excluding period of EOL). She will also submit the monthly report of academic activities undertaken by her to Director, SOPVA.
4. The amount of excess salary paid to Dr Seema Johri on account of no leave to her credit be recovered from her salary. Since she does not have any leave to her credit, future leave would be treated as leave without pay and accordingly her future salary would be regulated as per rules.

ITEM NO.17 TO CONSIDER NOMINATION OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ON THE GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL COMMITTEE, STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

BM 151.17.1 The Board nominated Dr. Bansh Gopal Singh, Member BOM on the Grievance Redressal Committee, Standing Committee of the Board under Clause (iii) of its composition.

ITEM NO. 18 TO CONSIDER THE STATUS OF RECRUITMENT TO TEACHING POSTS ADVERTISED BY THE UNIVERSITY ALONGWITH STATUS OF BACKLOG VACANCIES FOR SC/ST/OBC/EWS ETC.

BM 151.18.1 The Board noted the status of recruitment to teaching posts advertised by the University along with status of backlog vacancies for SC/ST/OBC/EWS etc.

ITEM NO. 19 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTAL PROMOTION COMMITTEE (DPC) MEETING HELD ON 16.08.2022 IN RESPECT OF GROUP-A NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

BM 151.19.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board considered the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meeting held on 16.08.2022 in respect of Group-A Non-Academic positions and noted that the promotions were recommended by DPC after following due process. The Board approved the recommendations, as per details given below:

Positions	Name of the candidate				Remarks
Promotion to the post of Deputy Registrar in the Pay Level 12 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.7600/- as per 6 th CPC)	Sh. Pappu Singh Sapriban (SC)				@ Ms. Neeta Sethi will be superannuating in the month of January, 2023, before the completion of her residency period.
	Panel:				
	#	Name of Assistant Registrar	Cat.	Date of eligibility for promotion	
	1	Ms.Shashi P Khurana	UR	19.08.2022	
	2	Ms. Maya Kumari	SC	19.08.2022	
	3	Sh. R.Sivaraj	UR	22.10.2022	
	4	Sh. Sandeep Arvind Sane	UR	19.05.2023*	
	5	Sh. Ramesh Kr. Sharma	UR	09.02.2023	
	6	Ms. Surekha Mittimani	UR	09.02.2023	
	7	Sh. Sanjeev Kr. Verma	SC	06.10.2023*	
	8	Ms. Asha Arora	UR	09.04.2023	
	9	Sh. Sanzaya Patel	UR	31.05.2023*	
	10	Ms. Neeta Sethi [@]	UR	09.04.2023	
	11	Sh. Mukesh Kumar	SC	03.05.2023	
	12	Sh. J. Thirumurugan	SC	26.05.2023	
	13	Sh. Gajula Ashok	UR	05.08.2023*	
	14	Sh. Rajesh Kumar Sharma	UR	15.11.2023*	
	15	Sh. Praveen Kumara B	UR	31.05.2023	
1. Sh. Vijaya Kumar (SC) was not considered for promotion as he is chargesheeted and hence no vigilance clearance.					
2. Sh. Sapan Kumar Ram (SC) was not considered for promotion pending investigation against him and a case registered against him by CBI, Kolkata.					
* As per the OM No.AB-14017/12/88-Estt(RR) dt.25.03.1996 issued by the Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of personnel Public Grievances and Pensions, Govt. of India “Where juniors who have completed their qualifying/eligibility service are being considered for promotion, their seniors would also be considered provided they are not					

	<i>short of the requisite qualifying/eligibility service by more than half of such qualifying/ eligibility service or two years, whichever is less, and have successfully completed their probation period for promotion to the next higher grade alongwith their juniors who have already completed such qualifying/eligibility service”</i>	
Promotion to the post of Engineer Incharge (EMPC) in the Pay Level 12 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.7600 as per 6 th CPC)	1. Sh. Ram Naresh (UR) 2. Sh. Ashish Vijaywergiya (UR)	
	Sh. S.B.Saxena was not considered for promotion as he has not acquired the requisite qualification.	
Promotion to the post of Maintenance Engineer (EMPC) in the Pay Level 12 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.7600 as per 6 th CPC)	Sh. Rakesh Chauhan (SC)	
Regularization in the post of Assistant Director (Software) in the Pay Level 10 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.5400/- as per 6 th CPC)	Sh. Bhaskar Tripathi (UR) Panel: 1. Sh. Bhupender Singh Rawat (UR) 2. Sh. Yogesh Bhatnagar (UR) 3. Sh. Vijay Kr. Sharma (UR)	
Promotion to the post of Assistant Registrar in the Pay Level 10 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100)	Sh. Saitan Singh (SC) Panel: 1. Sh.D.V. Ramanna, PS (UR) 2. Sh. K. Narender, SO (UR) 3. Sh. A.S.V. Venkateswar, PS (UR) 4. Ms. Urmila Devi, SO (UR)	

with GP of Rs.5400/- as per 6 th CPC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Sh. Arun Kr. Barua, SO (UR) 6. Sh. R.S.Khati, SO (UR) 7. Sh. Ram Prakash, SO (UR) 8. Ms. Manju Sharma, PS (UR) 9. Ms. Rajni Guwalani, PS (UR) 10. Ms. Kamlesh Punyani, PS (UR) 11. Sh. Sanjay Nagpal, PS (UR) 12. Sh. Amar Singh, PS (UR) 13. Ms. Renu Bala Bhagotra, PS (UR) 14. Sh. Rajesh Kumar-1, SO (SC) 15. Sh. Ashesh Kumar, SO (UR) 16. Sh. Sheetal Kr. Sharma, SO (UR) 17. Sh. Y Subramanyam, SO (UR) 18. Ms. Veena Adlakha, SO (UR) 19. Sh. R. Parthiban, SO (UR) 20. Sh. B. Badrinath, SO (UR) 21. Sh. Prabhakar Joshi, SO (UR) 22. Sh. Rajbir Singh, SO (UR) 23. Ms. Poonam Bhatia, PS (UR) 24. Sh. Gurmeet Kr. Ghai, PS (UR) 25. Ms. Rashmi Sarpal, PS (UR) 26. Ms. Reema Kharbanda, PS (UR) 27. Sh. Dinesh Chand, PS (SC) 28. Sh.S.S. Bhandari, SO (UR) 29. Ms. Jasbir Kaur, SO (UR) 30. Sh. Ajay Kr. Pant, SO (UR) 31. Sh. Vimha Khoto Tetso, SO (ST) 32. Sh. Dilip Kr. Darjee, SO (SC) 33. Sh. Banwari Lal, SO (SC) 34. Sh. B.N. Sah, SO (ST) 35. Ms. Vijaya Brijwal, SO (ST) 	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Veena Rani (ST) was not considered for promotion pending her ST certificate verification and vigilance case. 2. Sh. Subhakant Chhetri (UR) and Sh. Sanjiv Kr. Hira (UR) were not considered for promotion due to the reason that there are financial mismanagement cases pending against them. 	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sh. Harkesh Kumar (SC) 2. Ms. G.Pyrbot (ST) 3. Sh.R.Ramesh Kumar (UR) 4. Ms. Kiran Nagpal (UR) 5. Sh.P.V.S.S.Satyanarayana (UR) 6. Ms. Kamlesh Kumari Sachdeva (UR) 7. Sh.R.D. Nirwan (ST) 8. Sh. Patras Kujur (ST) 	Were not considered for promotion as they do not possess the requisite qualification.

Promotion to the post of Dy. Director (Software) in the Pay Level 12 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.7600 as per 6 th CPC)	No Assistant Director (Software) was found eligible	
Promotion to the post of Dy. Registrar (Official Language) in the Pay Level 12 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.7600 as per 6 th CPC)	The post of Assistant Registrar (Official Language) is lying vacant.	
Promotion to the post of Dy. Registrar (Translation) in the Pay Level 12 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.7600 as per 6 th CPC)	No Assistant Registrar (Translation) was found eligible	
Promotion to the post of Dy. Registrar (Legal) in the Pay Level 12 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.7600 as per 6 th CPC)	No Assistant Registrar (Legal) was found eligible	

Promotion to the post of Assistant Engineer (EMPC) in the Pay Level 10 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.5400 as per 6 th CPC)	None of the four Senior Technical Assistant (EMPC) posses the requisite qualification.	
Promotion to the post of Assistant Registrar (Official Language) in the Pay Level 10 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.5400 as per 6 th CPC)	The post of Section Officer (Official Language) is lying vacant	
Regularization in the post of Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil) in the Pay Level 10 of 7 th CPC (Pay Band-III of Rs.15600-39100 with GP of Rs.5400 as per 6 th CPC)	The Committee did not consider the regularization.	

BM 151.19.2 The Board directed to examine the ACRs & vigilance clearance of each employee concerned placed in the panel before offering the letter of promotion.

The Board confirmed the above item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for taking necessary action.

ITEM NO. 20 TO CONSIDER THE LEGAL OPINION IN RESPECT THE REPRESENTATION RECEIVED FROM DR. R. SUDARSAN, FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AGAINST COMPULSORY RETIREMENT AS PER DECISION OF THE 149TH BOM

BM 151.20.1 The Board noted that the legal opinion on the matter is still awaited. Therefore, the Board decided to defer this to its next meeting.

ITEM NO. 21 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 79TH MEETING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE, A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT TO BE HELD ON 16.08.2022

BM 151.21.1 The Board considered the Minutes of the 79th meeting of the Establishment Committee. The Board while considering the minutes directed to ensure the following points while changing the nomenclature from Executive Assistant to Assistant Section Officer (vide EC Item No.4):

- (i) The same shall not be considered as promotion,
- (ii) There shall be no financial benefits extended to any of the employee concerned due to the change in designation of the post.
- (iii) The nature of work, pay scale and service conditions of the employees covered under change of nomenclature of post will remain the same.
- (iv) This will not apply to any other equivalent cadre in the University.

The Board approved the minutes of the Establishment Committee, made at its 79th meeting held on 16.08.2022 (**Appendix-4**) with the above observations.

ITEM NO. 22 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF GANDHI SMRITI AND DARSHAN SAMITI (GSDS), RAJ GHAT FOR PROVIDING SPACE TO IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE, DELHI-2

BM 151.22.1 The Board was informed that since the year 2019, the Regional Centre Delhi-2 was in receipt of letters from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) for vacating the RC building located in the premises of GSDS. The University received a letter dated 7th May 2022 from the Chairman, Executive Committee, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS), to vacate RC Delhi-2 from GSDS premises within one month. The University vide its letter dated 13th May 2022 informed GSDS that the Regional Centre shall be shifted and the premises shall be vacated at the earliest. In

view of the urgency the matter was placed in the 149th meeting of the BOM held on 26.5.2022. The Board approved the proposal for shifting the Regional Centre to another location or to allocate the Study Centres under Regional Centre Delhi-2 to other Regional Centres in Delhi and NCR region including NOIDA. Second option was explored but was found not feasible in view of large student strength. IGNOU has paid Rs. 1.70 crores to GSDS during the last five years towards maintenance (security, electricity, water etc.) charges and also has spent around one crore towards repair and renovation work in the erstwhile Centre for Gandhian Studies established jointly by IGNOU and GSDS.

The new building was immediately taken on rent and process of shifting was completed by end of June and intimated to GSDS immediately for issue of a vacation certificate.

The Board was further informed that GSDS has again proposed to provide space for the Regional Centre on rent for a period of three years. Further, the Administrative Officer, GSDS vide letter dated 29-07-2022 has asked IGNOU for the repair of electrical fittings and renovation of the space vacated by the Regional Centre. The University vide e-mail dated 13.8.2022 has requested GSDS to submit estimates for repairing the vacated space occupied by IGNOU.

BM 151.22.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board opined that the matter be examined after receipt of a concrete written proposal from the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS). In the meantime, the Board also directed to review the MOU with existing institution and also prepare a detailed estimate along with estimated cost of shifting back of RC to GSDS.

ITEM NO. 23 TO CONSIDER THE SIGNING OF TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WITH THE ICCR AND CHD TO OFFER HINDI PROGRAMMES INTERNATIONALLY

BM 151.23.1 The Board approved the tripartite Agreement to be signed among Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Central Hindi Directorate (CHD) and Indira Gandhi National Open University to offer Hindi programmes internationally. The Board directed to remove Article XV of Tripartite Agreement which may be decided later. The Board also authorized the Vice-Chancellor to take necessary action in this regard.

ITEM NO. 24 TO APPRISE THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE UNIVERSITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEP 2020

BM 151.24.1 The Board noted the progress made by the University in implementation of NEP 2020 and appreciated the efforts being made by the University in this regard.

**ITEM NO. 25 (1) TO RATIFY THE MOU BETWEEN IGNOU AND CSU FOR MUTUAL COLLABORATION FOR OFFERING IGNOU COURSES UNDER THE DISTANCE AND E- LEARNING PROGRAMMES TO THE STUDENTS OF CSU
(2) TO RATIFY THE MOU SIGNED BETWEEN MSDE AND IGNOU FOR OPENING IGNOU-MSDE CENTRES AND THE FOLLOW-UP ACTION INITIATED UNDER THE MOU
(3) TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR SIGNING OF MOU AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN IGNOU AND NSDC
(4) TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT MOU TO BE SIGNED WITH THE DEFENCE FORCES FOR OFFERING SPECIALLY DESIGNED SKILL BASED BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME FOR THE SERVING DEFENCE FORCES PERSONNEL**

BM 151.25.1 The Board ratified the MOUs signed with the following institutions:

- (1) The MoU between IGNOU and CSU for mutual collaboration for offering IGNOU courses under the Distance and e-Learning programmes to the students of CSU
- (2) The MoU signed between MSDE and IGNOU for opening IGNOU-MSDE Centres and the follow-up action initiated under the MoU

BM 151.25.2 The Board also approved the MOUs with the following institutions:

- (1) MoU between IGNOU and NSDC
- (2) MOU with the Defence Forces for offering specially designed Skill Based Bachelor's Degree Programme for the serving Defence Forces personnel

ITEM NO. 26 TO CONSIDER THE RESIGNATION TENDERED BY DR. NAVEEN KUMAR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SOCIS FROM THE SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY W.E.F. 13.02.2021

BM 151.26.1 The Board was informed that Dr. Naveen Kumar, Associate Professor, School of Computer & Information Sciences (SOCIS) had joined IGNOU on 17.10.2003 as Lecturer and promoted to the post of Reader in Computer & Information Science w.e.f. 14.11.2011. He was placed as Associate Professor w.e.f. 14.11.2014. He was permitted to visit Australia purely on personal grounds during the period from 09.08.2017 to 31.10.2017 by availing of earned leave, without any financial commitment on the part of the University vide office order No. 194 dated 31.07.2017. He had requested to extend his stay in Australia and requested to avail vacation from 01.11.2017 to 27.12.2017 which was considered.

He was granted EOL for two years w.e.f. 01.10.2018 vide office order No. 79 dated 22.02.2019. After availing EOL (on personal grounds), he joined back the services of IGNOU on 25.09.2020. He again requested for EOL on personal grounds and was granted EOL for two years w.e.f. 13.02.2021 vide Office Order No. 104 dated 11.02.2021.

Vide Email dated 19.03.2021, Dr. Naveen Kumar was asked to submit copies of Passport, Visa of self and spouse alongwith employment certificate of spouse and the passbook of bank accounts in his own name in Australia. He was also asked to join back duties within 15 days of the communication since, as per University records, the validity of his visa was upto 15.03.2022. However, Dr. Naveen Kumar did not join back the University and tendered his resignation from the services of IGNOU vide e-mail dated 24.05.2022.

The Board was further informed that the Leave Ordinance of the University states as under:

“In case of his failure to return to duty immediately at the end of the period of leave sanctioned to him the services of a teacher shall be liable to be terminated from the date of commencement of the period of leave granted to him. He shall also refund to the University pay and allowances, if any, received by him during the leave (including other kinds of leave taken in continuation) sanctioned to him for the purpose”.

“If the Teacher does not resume his duties in the University at the end of the period of Extra Ordinary Leave granted to him, he shall be treated as having resigned the post held by him in the University”.

BM 151.26.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board decided to accept the request of resignation of Dr Naveen Kumar submitted by him vide email dated

24.05.2022. He would be deemed to have resigned from the services of the University w.e.f. the date of his proceeding on EOL i.e. 13.02.2021 and the terminal benefits, if any, would be released as per rules.

ITEM NO. 27 TO CONSIDER THE MATTER REGARDING RECOVERY OF THE EXCESS SALARY PAID TO DR. SJ NEETHIRAJAN, FORMER REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGIONAL CENTER IMPHAL AND HIS SUBSEQUENT REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING INDUCTION INTO OLD PENSION SCHEME AND COUNTING OF PAST SERVICES AND SWITCHING OVER FROM CPF TO GPF SCHEME IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE JUDGEMENT AND ORDERS PASSED BY HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR AT IMPHAL IN WRIT PETITION NO. 95/2021 DATED, 6TH JUNE, 2022.

BM 151.27.1 The Board was informed that Dr S.J. NeethiRajan, Former Regional Director, RC Imphal was posted as Regional Director in Regional Centre, Bhagalpur and was transferred to Regional Centre, Delhi II as Deputy Director vide Notification F. No. TA/1/1-11/2016/372 dated 3rd March 2017. Dr. S.J. NeethiRajan, Former Regional Director did not join at Regional Centre, Delhi II and had proceeded on medical leave. Dr. Neethirajan had also filed a Writ Petition No. 5145 of 2017 in Hon'ble High Court of Patna against the transfer Order dated 3rd March 2017 and in view of Orders passed by Hon'ble High Court of Patna dated 30.03.2018 and his representation dated 11.04.2018, he was posted to Regional Centre, Imphal as Regional Director vide Office Order No. 281 dated 18th June 2018 with the direction to submit Medical Fitness Certificate at the time of joining. Dr. S. J. Neethirajan joined Regional Centre, Imphal on 02.07.2018 and had submitted his medical fitness certificate dated 30.06.2018 and requested to settle the period of his medical leave using EL, HPL and Commuted leave in his credit vide his letter dated 24.10.2018.

The Board was also informed that since his absence from duties w.e.f. 20.03.2017 upto 01.07.2018 was for 468 days, the University, favourably considered his request, and his period of absence w.e.f. 20.03.2017 to 01.07.2018 was neutralised by adjusting the leave available to his leave account (including HPL/Medical/EL) w.e.f. 20.03.2017 to 27.08.2017 and by granting Extra Ordinary Leave without pay w.e.f. 28.08.2017 to 01.07.2018 on medical grounds for the remaining period of 308 days since

no leave were available to his credit. Hence, it was necessary to recover an amount for his absence of 308 days, the same was conveyed to him vide Office Order No. 479 dated 16th October 2018 and followed by Office Order No 70 dated 25.2.2020, letters F.No. IG/TA/1/615/07/7430, dated 8th January 2021 and F.No. IG/TA/1/615/07/7440, dated 11th January 2021, RCs were asked to recover the excess salary paid to Dr S.J. Neethirajan, amounting to Rs. 15,96,778/- from his salary.

Dr SJ Neethirajan had also submitted representations for (i) counting of his past services rendered by him in North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST) from 14.09.1994 to 21.07.2007, (ii) put him in GPF scheme from CPF scheme, (iii) consider leave gratuity and other pensionary benefits; in view of University's Notification F. No. AD/2/NA/CPF-GPF/17/292 dated 02.12.2019 regarding conversion of CPF to GPF of some employees of the University and Government of India OM, No. 28/30.2004-P&PW (B), dated 11th June 2020. The University had disposed off his various representations regarding induction into Old Pension Scheme and counting of past services and switching over from CPF to GPF scheme vide its letter dated 15.01.2021. Against the University letters F.No. IG/TA/1/615/07/7430, dated 8th January 2021 and F.No. IG/TA/1/615/07/7440, dated 11th January 2021 regarding recovery of the excess salary paid to him, conversion from CPF to GPF etc., Dr. S. J. Neethirajan proceeded to Court and filed Writ Petition No. 95/2021 in Hon'ble High Court of Manipur at Imphal on 05.02.2021. The Hon'ble High Court issued interim Order to suspend the Order for recovery of Rs. 15,96,778/- in 10 instalments starting from the salary from the month of January 2021. In the meantime, Dr. SJ Neethirajan got superannuated from the services of IGNOU on 30.04.2022.

The Hon'ble High Court of Manipur, amongst others, passed the following orders dated 06.06.2022 as under:

“54. In the result, the writ petition is allowed and the impugned orders dated 08.01.2021 and 11.01.2021 directing the petitioner to pay the excess salary paid to him to the tune of Rs. 15,96,778/- on account of 308 days of EOL granted to him on medical ground to be paid in 10 installments stand set aside and the matter is remanded back to the respondent authorities of the IGNOU, particularly, the Director, ACD, IGNOU to consider the case of the petitioner in accordance with a law and in the light of various

representations submitted by him and the subsequent development that the petitioner retired from service. The Director, ACD, IGNOU is directed to afford reasonable opportunity to the petitioner before passing order thereafter pass a reasoned order. The said exercise is directed to be completed within a period of 8 (eight) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. No costs.”

A copy of the orders of Hon’ble High Court were placed before the Board.

BM 151.27.2 The Board was further informed that in view of the Orders of the Hon’ble High Court of Manipur at Imphal, a Committee was constituted by the Vice Chancellor, IGNOU under the Chairpersonship of Prof Satyakam to examine the representations of Dr SJ NeethiRajan, former Regional Director, RC Imphal in terms of Orders of the Hon’ble High Court and give a hearing opportunity to him to present his case in person and submit its recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for passing reasoned orders on his representations.

In compliance with the orders of Hon’ble High Court, Dr. SJ Neethirajan, vide University’s letter F.No. IG/TA/1/615/07/11743 dated 06.07.2022, was requested to submit his representation alongwith all supporting documents related to the issues dealt with as per Orders passed in the WP (C) 95 of 2021. Dr. SJ NeethiRajan, had submitted his representation on 14.07.2022 wherein he requested to (i) consider his past services; (ii) transfer/adjust EL, HPL, gratuity etc. earned by him, and; (iii) convert his CPF contribution to the GPF scheme which were placed before the Board. Further, vide University’s letter F. No. IG/TA/1/615/07/11821 dated 19.07.2022 Dr. SJ Neethirajan was requested to suggest 2-3 dates and time suitable to him preferably during last week of July 2022 in order to provide him opportunity of being heard and represent his case in person. As requested by Dr SJ Neethirajan, he was given an opportunity through virtual mode and an online meeting using Zoom platform was convened on 5th August 2022 at 12.30 PM for his personal interaction with the Committee with regard to his representations.

The Committee conducted several meetings and examined the matter in detail and submitted its recommendations. The report of the Committee was placed before the Board for its consideration (**Appendix-5**).

- BM 151.27.3** After detailed deliberations, the Board accepted the recommendations of the Committee and approved the proposal to communicate reasoned order, accordingly in compliance with the Orders of Hon'ble High Court of Manipur at Imphal in WP (C) 95 of 2021.

The Board decided to confirm this Item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard.

ITEM NO. 28 TO CONSIDER RECRUITMENT TO THE VACANT POSITIONS OF TEACHERS AND ACADEMICS IN THE UNIVERSITY

- BM 151.28.1** The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board was informed that in view of MOE (erstwhile MHRD) letter F.No.17-13/2019-DL dated 22.05.2019, the Board of Management at its 135th meeting held on 19th July 2019 had decided for filling up the vacant teaching and academic positions. Accordingly, in accordance with the Office Memorandum No. 36039/1/2019-Estt. (Res), dated 31.1.2019 of Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Govt. of India, and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) letter F.No.12-1/2019-DL dated 01.05.2019, regarding reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in direct recruitment in Civil posts and service in the Government of India, the University had finalized the reservation Rosters for teaching positions at the level of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor. Subsequently, out of the total 184 posts vacant as on 1.8.2019, based on requirement and financial health of the University, the University had advertised 116 posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor through Online Portal in coordination with Samarth. Thus 68 posts were not advertised in 2019.

The interviews were conducted for such posts having minimum 02 eligible candidates against reserved posts and 03 eligible candidates against unreserved posts. Out of 116 posts, Interviews were conducted for 73 posts, however, 72 candidates were appointed out of which 71 Teachers joined the University at different levels viz. Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors across various Schools of Studies, while against one post, none candidate was found suitable after selection Committee meeting. There were 43 posts wherein either one or less than one eligible candidate were there, hence no interview was conducted for such posts.

The Board of Management at its 143rd meeting held on 6th August 2021 while noting the Status of recruitment directed to re-advertise the posts having one or less eligible candidate as well as other vacant posts of teachers and academics as per requirement. Accordingly, the 44 posts of Teachers at the level of Professors/Associate Professors and Assistant Professors remaining unfilled, out of 2019 advertisement, were re-advertised vide Advt No. 02/2021/ACD, dated 30.11.2021. The last date of receiving, online application was 05.01.2022. The applications were invited through Online Portal in coordination with Samarth.

In response to the advertisement, the University received about 210 applications. All the applications received were screened at University level having representations of Schools of Studies and Discipline, in accordance with screening criteria for screening of applications as per provisions contained in the UGC Regulations, 2018 including UGC guidelines etc. The list of shortlisted candidates was also placed on the University website for information and seeking representation/grievance/observations from the concerned. The current status of recruitment of these 44 posts was placed before the Board. Since 30.8.2019 (date of finalization of previous roster), several posts of teachers and academics have fallen vacant due to retirement/VRS/death etc. The Staff position of Teachers arising after 30.8.2019 was placed before the Board. The University is in the process of finalizing the rosters in this regard.

The Board noted Clause 6.3 of the Office Memorandum No. 36039/1/2019-Estt. (Res), dated 31.1.2019 of Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Govt. of India, and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) letter F.No.12-1/2019-DL, dated 01.05.2019, regarding reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in direct recruitment in Civil posts and service in the Government of India, which states as under:

“6.3 Where in any recruitment year, any vacancy earmarked for EWS cannot be filled up due to non availability of a suitable candidate belonging to EWS, such vacancies for that particular recruitment year shall not be carried forward to the next recruitment year as backlog.”

In this connection, the following vacancies were earmarked EWS were advertised in 2019 cycle and they could not be filled up due to non-availability of suitable candidates. These vacancies remaining unfilled were again advertised in 2021, however, no suitable candidate could be shortlisted this time also.

SN	Discipline	Post	Category	No. of Candidates shortlisted
1	Child Development, SOCE	Professor	EWS	0
2	Management, SOMS	Professor	EWS	0
3	History, SOSS	Associate Professor	EWS	0
4	Nutritional Science, SOCE	Associate Professor	EWS	0
5	Nursing, SOHS	Associate Professor	EWS	0

Thus, in terms of the aforementioned Clause 6.3 of the Office Memorandum No.36039/1/2019-Estt. (Res) dated 31.1.2019 of Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Govt. of India, it was proposed that these posts may be de-reserved and treated as Unreserved posts.

Besides the Teaching posts, with the approval of Board of Management in its 135th meeting held on 19.07.2019 to fill up the positions of Director (EMPC), Librarian etc., the University had advertised posts of Director, Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) and Librarian. Against the advertisement issued, online applications for the posts of Librarian and Director, EMPC were received. All the applications received were screened by the duly constituted Committees. In case of Director (EMPC), none of the applicant was found eligible for the said post. The staff position of Academics as on 1.8.2022 was also placed before the Board.

The Board was further informed that the Govt. of India, Ministry of Education has been regularly pursuing matter with regard to filling up of vacant posts. Therefore, keeping in view the requirement, and other important factors including finalization of rosters, it was proposed that the University may advertise the vacant posts of teachers and academics.

BM 151.28.2 The Board noted the status of vacant posts of Teachers and academics and decided as under:

1. The reservations rosters for teachers and academics be finalized and the vacant posts of teachers and academics be advertised as per requirement, and financial health of the University.
2. In terms of the Clause 6.3 of the Office Memorandum No. 36039/1/2019-Estt. (Res), dated 31.1.2019 of Department of Personnel

& Training (DoPT), Govt of India, regarding reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in direct recruitment in Civil posts and service in the Government of India, the following vacancies still remaining unfilled due to non-availability of eligible candidates, would be treated as unreserved posts in future recruitment cycles.

SN	Discipline	Post
1	Child Development, SOCE	Professor
2	Management, SOMS	Professor
3	History, SOSS	Associate Professor
4	Nutritional Science, SOCE	Associate Professor
5	Nursing, SOHS	Associate Professor

ITEM NO. 29 TO REPORT THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REPORT IN THE CASE OF DELAY IN RELEASE OF FINAL PAYMENT TO M/S B M & SONS

BM 151.29.1 The Board was informed that Vigilance Cell had received a complaint letter dated 03/05/2012 from Sh. Mukesh Sharma, Govt. Contractors & Engineers on delay in releasing of final payment. The complaint was forwarded the CPO, CMD to obtain para-wise comments alongwith necessary documentary evidence. In response CMD has stated that the main cause of delaying payment to the contractor is due to delayed submission of required documents by M/s. B M & Sons to CMD which are necessary requisite to process the final bills and allegations made by agency are baseless and attempt this type of blackmailing tactic to pressurize the site in-charge and concerned officers to accept their undue claims and condone the delay in execution to avoid levy of compensation under Clause-2 of agreement. After going through the complaint, Vigilance Cell noticed that there is lot of variations with regard to balance amount shown by complainant and response received from CMD and in most of the cases agency failed to submit the necessary requisite documents to CMD for processing his final payments.

Vigilance Cell had also forwarded the copy of the letter of CMD to M/s B M & Sons vide letter dated 23/08/2012 requested to submit the para-wise comments on the CMD letter and M/s B M & Sons submitted his para-

wise comments vide their letter dated 31/08/2012 which was forwarded to CPO, CMD for their comments. CMD vide its note dated 21/09/2021 informed that the complainant had sought for Arbitration related to all his work done in IGNOU and as per awards published by Ld. Arbitrator/Court the due payments have already been released and nothing is pending on part of University and accordingly, the issue may please be closed.

It was further informed that on scrutiny Vigilance Cell noticed that there was a lot of variation with regard to response received from CMD and final payment made by CMD to M/s. B M & Sons after the final judgment of arbitration. It has come to the conclusion that in all six work (case No. KV/MMA/310/311/312/313/314/315) CMD could not defend its case properly before the arbitrator which resulted in award of penalty/interest to the University to the sum of Rs.10,80,098/- to be paid to M/s. B M & Sons. Further, Vigilance Cell proposed that either an administrative warning may be issued against the CMD official responsible for financial loss to the University or disciplinary proceeding may be initiated against the concerned officials.

Accordingly, Vigilance Cell has submitted a preliminary investigation report for delay in release of final payment of M/s. B M & Sons before the Competent Authority.

BM 151.29.2 The Board considered the preliminary investigation report submitted by Vigilance Cell for delay in release of final payment of M/s. B M & Sons. As there are contradictions and CMD could not defend the cases properly in arbitration, the role of CPO and concerned officials be ascertained and placed before the Board in its next meeting. The status of other arbitration matters including PEB Building matter and the role of CPO and concerned officials in delaying the process and arbitration be also placed with full facts and records in the next meeting.

ITEM NO. 30 TO CONSIDER DISMANTLING OF 25 NON-FUNCTIONAL GYAN VANI TRANSMITTER INFRASTRUCTURES AND SHIFTING OF EQUIPMENTS TO REGIONAL CENTRES

BM 151.30.1 The Secretary informed the Board that the status report of the Gyan Vani FM stations and the financial commitments for non-operational stations was apprised to the Board of Management at its 149th meeting held on 26.05.2022. The Board approved the payment of outstanding dues for Rs. 12.50 Crore to Prasar Bharati in respect of non-operational Gyan Vani

Stations from the Internal Revenue Generation (IRG) of the University. The same was cleared for non-operational stations up to 31.03.2022. IGNOU stopped payment of license fee @ an average of Rs. 13 lakhs per annum for each of these 27 non-operational stations for operations and maintenance (O&M). However, IGNOU is still paying an average of Rs. 22 lakhs per station per annum to *Prasar Bharati* for tower, land and building. It was also informed that the Gyan Vani Review Committee (meeting held on dated: 23.02.22) suggested that in order to stop the annual payment to All India Radio for Tower, Land & Building, it was necessary to clear the site occupied by the non-working infrastructure as per the MoU signed with Prasar Bharati. The Board also noted that transmitters have outlived their life and spare parts for repairing are not available in the market. The Board, while taking note of the high recurring expenditure to maintain the station, was of the view to dispose off the obsolete material at these stations and surrender them. Earlier CAG have also raised serious concern over unfruitful expenditure of Rs. 49.04 Crore on non-operative FM Stations for unutilized period when FM Stations were not functional.

BM 151.30.2 The Board was further informed that in view of the above, dismantling of the GyanVani transmitter and shifting of the equipment at Regional Centre Building/LSC was done by the IGNOU Regional Centres. Two stations were dismantled and shifted earlier and out of remaining 25 surrendered stations dismantling and shifting of 24 stations have been completed and vacation certificate have been obtained from AIR stations. At all places, all outstanding dues of Prasar Bharati/AIR were cleared up to June, 2022 and transmitter infrastructure was shifted to IGNOU premises. A detailed status report of **27 non-operational FM stations where transmitter was shifted was placed before the Board alongwith a report on 10 operational Gyan Vani stations (Appendix-6)** alongwith the power of the transmitter and the coverage area.

BM 151.30.3 The Board noted the detailed status report of 27 non-operational FM stations where transmitter was shifted and a report on 10 operational Gyan Vani stations alongwith the power of the transmitter and the coverage area. The Board also noted the status of dismantling of 26 non-functional Gyan Vani transmitter infrastructures and shifting of equipments to the concerned Regional Centres and dismantling of 01 Gyan Vani Station is under process.

The Board further directed that dismantled items be disposed of at the earliest. Accordingly, the current status be also communicated to Ministry.

ITEM NO. 31 TO APPRISE THE STATUS REPORT ON THE AUDIT PARAS PENDING IN THE UNIVERSITY

BM 151.31.1 The Board noted the status report on the Audit Paras pending (**Appendix-7**) in the University. The Board directed that all the concerned Divisions/Units be directed to submit appropriate reply to dispose of the pending Audit Para(s) against them. Detailed Action taken report by F&A Division also submitted in the next meeting.

ITEM NO. 32 TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST OF PROF AJIT KUMAR, PROFESSOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, SOET FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT FROM THE SERVICES OF UNIVERSITY

BM 151.32.1 The Board was informed that Prof Ajit Kumar, Professor of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering & Technology had joined the services of the University as Reader in Civil Engineering w.e.f 07.08.1998 and subsequently promoted to the post of Professor w.e.f. 7.08.2006. Vide his letter of request dated 16.08.2022, Prof Ajit Kumar informed the University that he has been suffering from Chronic kidney disease and non-malignant brain tumor. Further, his son, who has been supporting him for food, travel, routine check up and emergencies, has joined service in Bhubaneswar, Prof Ajit Kumar requested to (i) either transfer his post to Regional Centre Bhubaneswar, Odisha from where he would perform his academic duties or (ii) give permission for Voluntary retirement under VRS.

BM 151.32.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board accepted the request of Prof Ajit Kumar, Professor of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering & Training (SOET) for voluntary retirement from services of the University. The Board further waived off the shortfall in notice period and decided to relive him on VRS w.e.f. 31.08.2022 (A/N). He would be eligible for retirement benefits as per Rules.

The Board decided to confirm this Item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard.

ITEM NO. 33 TO CONSIDER THE MODIFICATION IN THE R&P RULES TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (OFFICIAL LANGUAGE)

BM 151.33.1 The Board was informed that the matter was urgent and Parliamentary Committee on RajBhasha, Govt. of India has expressed concern regarding delay in appointment of Assistant Registrar (RajBhasha) .

The Board directed to review the qualifications laid down in R&P Rules as per the RajBhasha Vibhag, Govt. of India/DoPT guidelines.

BM 151.33.2 On account of the exigency to fill the position, the Board authorized the Vice Chancellor to take appropriate action for filling up the post. The post may be filled on deputation basis, if required. The post must have the specification regarding Hindi language only.

ITEM NO. 34 TO APPRAISE THE CURRENT STATUS OF LAND AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AT VARIOUS IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRES

BM 151.34.1 The Board noted the current status of land and building construction (**Appendix-8**) at various IGNOU Regional Centres.

The Board opined that regular monitoring of construction activities be carried out by CMD. Details regarding delay in acquisition of land at Nagpur and Vijayawada from concerned Regional Director of regional centre and CPO be also submitted to the Board immediately.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Nageshwar Rao)
Chairman