

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY**  
(Planning & Development Division)

**MINUTES OF THE 48<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2020 AT 11:00 AM. AT THE BOARD ROOM, VCO BLOCK, IGNOU, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI – 110068.**

The following were present:-

1.	Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor.	Chairman
2.	Prof. Satyakam, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU.	Special Invitee
3.	Prof. K.B.Das, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU.	Special Invitee
4.	Prof. Sunil S. Bhat, NIT, Nagpur.	Member
5.	Dr. Shrish Kashikar, NIMCJ, Ahmedabad.	Member
6.	Prof. Pawan Kumar Singh, MDI, Gurgaon.	Member
7.	Prof. Ujwala S. Chakradeo, Principal, SMMCA, Nagpur.	Member
8.	Prof. Surya Gunjal, YCMOU, Nasik.	Member
9.	Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director, SOSW, IGNOU.	Member
10.	Prof. B.K. Pattnaik, Director, SOEDS, IGNOU.	Member
11.	Prof. Swati Patra, SOSS, IGNOU.	Member
12.	Dr. M. Shanmugan, Director, RSD, IGNOU.	Member
13.	Dr. V.B.Negi, Registrar, Admn. IGNOU.	Member
14.	Prof. Pardeep Sahni, SOSS, IGNOU.	Special Invitee
15.	Prof. B. B. Khanna, Director, ID, IGNOU.	Special Invitee
16.	Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Director, COE, IGNOU.	Special Invitee
17.	Dr. K. D. Prasad, Director, CPC, IGNOU.	Special Invitee
18.	Er. Sudhir Kr. Reddy, CPO/CMD, IGNOU	Special Invitee
19.	Shri Ravi Kanth, Director, EMPC, IGNOU.	Special Invitee
20.	Dr. Pankaj Khare, Director, P&DD, IGNOU.	Member Secretary

Ms. Monika Arora, Advocate, New Delhi. Dr. Vijay P. Bhatkar, Computer Scientist, Pune, Prof. Vijayaraghavan M Chariar, IIT, Delhi, Prof. B.P. Khandelwal, Former Director, NIEPA, Dr. Manju Sharma, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Prof. Ravindra Ramachandra Kanhere, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Prof. Rajendra Prasad Das, Pro-Vice Chancellor could not attend the meeting. Dr. Pankaj Khanna, Deputy Director, P&DD and Dr. Sunil Kumar, Sr. Analyst, P&DD were present to assist the Planning Board.

At the outset, the Member Secretary welcomed Chairman, Members and Special Invitees to the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Planning Board. Thereafter the Chairman formally welcomed all the newly joined Pro-Vice Chancellors (PVCs) and Members, Prof. Ravindra Ramachandra Kanhere, PVC, Prof. Rajendra Prasad Das, PVC, Prof. Satyakam, PVC, Prof. K.B.Das, PVC, Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director, SOSW Prof. B.K. Pattnaik, Director, SOEDS and Prof. Swati Patra, SOSS. He also placed on record appreciation for the former Members, Prof. Satyakam, Director, SOH, Prof. S.B. Arora, Director, SOHS, Prof. Madhu Parhar Director, STRIDE for the valuable contributions made by them.

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The Chairman briefed the Planning Board about the recent developments that took place in the University as follows:-

1. The government has exempted the University from the open and distance learning regulations of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and Online programmes exemption is in process with the concerned government authorities.
2. The registration of students crossed the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) target of 90,000 as specified by MHRD for 2019-20.
3. The University successfully conducted the entrance examinations of IGNOU's MBA (OPENMAT) & B.Ed programmes for January 2020 admissions by National Testing Agency on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019, at more than 100 cities across India.
4. The University has opened online registration and admission to various courses under the January 2020 admissions through Samarth portal of MHRD. It includes CBCS based 9 honors programmes and other 11 new Diploma / Degree programmes in various disciplines.
5. The University has launched the BA Honors programmes, which was praised and lauded at various forums all over the country.
6. The University has been ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Swachh Campus Ranking 2019 of Higher Educational Institutions in the Non-Residential University Category. The award was received by Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU from Shri R. Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Higher Education. The Hon' ble Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal addressed the participants through video-conference.
7. The University has started implementing the MHRD Project – Samarth for its student lifecycle processes and Enterprise resource planning (ERP). Presently, it has been implemented for Student admission/examination and once totally implemented for all the other processes (*finance and material distribution etc.*) it shall save a lot of finances for the University.
8. Prof. D.S. Chauhan VC, GLA University, Mathura & Former President of AIU delivered 24<sup>th</sup> Prof. G Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture on July 02, 2019.
9. Shri Vinay Saharsrabuddhe, President- ICCR, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha delivered the 34<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day lecture on November 19, 2019.
10. The National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) accreditation work of the University has been initiated. The related information has been submitted as per NAAC's guidelines to them for validation, verification and subsequent processing.
11. A letter was received from Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) regarding low enrolment programmes, which was further deliberated as a separate agenda item.
12. The University Annual report 2018-19 was placed before the Parliament. The report has been structured & printed as per the NAAC accreditation parameters. A copy of the same was provided to the Planning Board members.
13. University launched 3 academic programmes through online mode viz. Certificate in Arabic language, Certificate in Russian language and Certificate in Tourism studies.



14. University has initiated direct faculty support to students of low enrolment programmes w.e.f. January 2020. First lot of 31 programmes was identified.

The Member Secretary thereafter presented the agenda items with the permission of the Chair. He briefed the Planning Board that the agenda contains 14 items (*including one tabled item*). The agenda has been divided into three major areas, first one contains confirmation of minutes, action taken reports and previous recommendations / directions / suggestions made by the Planning Board, second consists of the new initiatives including Skill development programmes and the third one was related to presentations by the respective Divisions and Committee members on various developments taking place at the university.

**P.B.48.1**                      **To confirm the minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning Board held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and Action Taken Reports (ATRs).**

**P.B.48.1.1**                      The Member Secretary informed that the Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning Board were circulated to the Members of the Board. As no comments were received, the Member Secretary proposed for confirmation of the minutes. An Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 47<sup>th</sup> Planning Board was also persuaded.

**P.B.48.1.2**                      The Planning Board took note of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendations of the Planning Board which were as follows:-

**P.B.48.1.3**                      *Refer Item no. P.B. 46.2.3:- Establishment of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Chair in the School of Humanities.*

The Planning Board took note of the action taken report and after deliberations opined that the establishment of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Chair in the School of Humanities may be expedited. Further, the academic and research activities on the philosophy of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay may be initiated in the form of lecture series, seminar work and other academic activities related to Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay.

**Action: SOH**

*Refer Item no. P.B. 46.2.3:- Establishment / transfer of the discipline of Philosophy to the School of Humanities (SOH) from School of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies (SOITS).*

The Planning Board took note of the action taken report and suggested that the establishment of the Philosophy discipline in respective School. The requisite recruitment in Philosophy discipline which was pending since the year 2008 may be expedited as per University norms, since

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academic programmes in this area were already on offer for long. A proposal for creation of faculty positions may also be initiated.

**Action: ACD**

**P.B.48.1.4** The Board confirmed the Minutes of 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of Planning Board and noted the action taken thereon.

**P.B.48.2** To consider and approve the recommendations of the following meetings of the Academic Programme Committee (APC):-

- i) 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Programme Committee (APC) held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019.
- ii) 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Programme Committee (APC) held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019.

**P.B.48.2.1** The Member Secretary reported that in the 57<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Programme Committee(s), the following academic programmes and activities were recommended (In most of the cases, the actions were taken to launch them).

**List of the academic programmes recommended for approval of the Planning Board**

**A) Programme Proposal Form (PPF) recommended for approval:-**

1. Certificate in Fashion Design (Pattern and Garment Development).
2. Certificate Programme in Yoga.
3. Post Graduate Diploma in Advertising & Integrated Communication.
4. CBCS Generic Elective Course: Disability Society and Culture.
5. Advanced Diploma in Early Childhood Development and Education.
6. Ph.D in Food Technology.
7. Post Graduate Diploma in Development Communication.
8. Diploma in Spanish Language and Culture.
9. B.A. General Philosophy (CBCS).
10. Bachelor of Business Administration (Services Management).

**B) Programme Proposal Form (PPF) deferred by APC:-**

1. Diploma in Solar Energy System.
2. Post Graduate Diploma in Vocational Education and Training.

**C) Programme Launch Approval Form recommended for approval:-**

1. Post Graduate Certificate in Medical Management of CBRNE Disasters.
2. B.A. (Vocational Studies) Tourism Management – CBCS Scheme.
3. P.G. Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication.
4. M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication.
5. CBCS programmes:-
  - i) B.Sc. (Hons.) Anthropology.

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- ii) B.A (Hons.) Economics.
- iii) B.A (Hons.) History.
- iv) B.A (Hons.) Political Science.
- v) B.A (Hons.) Public Administration.
- vi) B.A (Hons.) Psychology.
- vii) B.A (Hons.) Sociology.
- viii) B.A. (English Hons.)
- ix) B.A. (Hindi Hons.)

**D) Other academic activities / items:-**

1. The progress on the letter of Intent (LoI) for online programmes as submitted to the University Grants Commission (UGC) is narrated.

2. The outcome of Director(s) meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to discuss the various issues, technology driven aspects and learner support services for the approx. 70-academic programmes having low enrolment.

P.B.48.2.2      The Planning Board considered and approved recommendations of the Academic Programme Committee(s) made at its 57<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting and actions taken thereon in launching these programmes.

P.B.48.3      **To consider the Prof. Sahni Committee Report constituted on the directions of 47<sup>th</sup> Planning Board to recommend marketing of low enrolment programmes and their alternate delivery mechanisms.**

P.B.48.3.1      The Member Secretary informed that the last Planning Board suggested that a committee may be constituted for low enrolment programmes to analyze the implications and suggest alternate delivery mechanisms using ICTs. He informed that a Committee was constituted under, the Chairmanship of Prof. Pardeep Sahni, School of Social Sciences, wherein it analyzed the patterns and growth rates in admissions with regard to various low enrolment programmes.

Prof. Pradeep Sahni, Chairperson of the committee briefed about the findings and recommendations of the committee on alternative delivery mechanism for low enrollment academic programmes. A copy of the presentation is placed as Annexure-1.

P.B.48.3.2      The Planning Board appreciated the sincere efforts made by the committee to improve feasibility of programmes with low enrollment. The Board observed that the role of schools in marketing and promoting the programmes in-coordination with the Regional Centres may be strengthened.

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- P.B.48.3.3 With above suggestions, the Planning Board approved for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee for marketing of low enrolment programmes and alternate delivery mechanisms. The report of the Committee be shared with all Schools for implementation.

*Action: All Schools of Studies and P&DD*

- P.B.48.4 To Report the action taken on the Committee constituted for Fee rationalization of IGNOU's Academic programmes implemented from January 2020 admission cycle.

- P.B.48.4.1 The Member Secretary informed that a Committee has been constituted vide notification no. AD/2/NA/1570 dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to deliberate and recommend revision of programme fee with rationalization of IGNOU's Academic Programmes. He briefed about the recommendations that the University has decided to reduce fee in low enrolment programmes for 3-admission cycles from January 2020. The programme fee is reduced by 10 to 15% in 61 academic programmes for the first time, retained fee in moderate enrolment programmes, enhanced fee in high enrolment programmes. The rationalized fee scheme is implemented w.e.f. January 2020 admission cycle onwards.

- P.B.48.4.2 The Planning Board appreciated the efforts made to reduce fee which will improve the reach of the low enrollment programmes.

- P.B.48.4.3 With above deliberations, the Planning Board noted the report and notification issued for Fee rationalization of IGNOU's Academic programmes implemented from January 2020 admission cycle as approved by the Academic Council.

*Action: P&DD and SRD*

- P.B.48.5 To consider avenues for capacity building in the area of skill development - Govt. of Odisha and SANKALP (*Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion*), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

- P.B.48.5.1 The Member Secretary informed that the Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) was signed between the IGNOU and Handicraft & Cottage Industries, Govt. of Odisha and State Institute for Development of Arts & Crafts (SIDAC) for skill upgradation on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019. He further informed that the University was approached by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for Training the Trainers programme.

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P.B.48.5.2 The Planning Board appreciated the efforts with regard to capacity building in the area of skill development and suggested to further expedite the activities with Govt. of Odisha and SANKALP (*Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion*), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

P.B.48.5.3 The Planning Board approved the Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with Govt. of Odisha and noted progress made on the SANKALP (*Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion*).

**Action: SOPVA, SOVET and P&DD**

P.B.48.6 **To apprise the status of construction of own buildings for Regional Centres (RCs) all over India.**

P.B.48.6.1 The Chief Project Officer (CPO), Construction and Maintenance Division (CMD) made a brief presentation on status of acquisition of land and construction of Buildings at various Regional Centres of IGNOU across the country. The Board deliberated on various issues related to building constructed / purchased and in use, proposal in process for construction of Regional Centre building under HEFA loan, proposals in process for construction of Regional Centre building from internal resources, land in possession and land allotted but possession yet to be given by concerned state government. A copy of the CMD presentation is placed as Annexure-2.

P.B.48.6.2 The Planning Board observed that ideal size of plot for construction of building of Regional Centres is 1-1.5 acres and the University ordinarily may not spend more than 10-Crore on construction of buildings of Regional Centres. It was again advised that the CPO CMD may adopt standardized methods / practices for construction activities. The CMD should take protective measures to activate actions / work by CPWD with constant continuous interaction.

P.B.48.6.3 The Planning Board with above suggestions and concerns on the delay in construction of new building at the IGNOU Headquarters and Regional Centre(s) all over India desired that a comprehensive progress report may be placed in the next Planning Board meeting.

**Action: CMD**

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- P.B.48.7** To consider the progress on the Letter of Intent (LoI) for Online programmes given by University Grants Commission (UGC) for the Academic Programmes of IGNOU.
- P.B.47.7.1** The Director, Centre for Online Education (COE) made a brief presentation about readiness of the University to offer academic programmes through online mode in accordance with Gazette notification issued by UGC. The University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 lay down the minimum standards of instruction and procedure for Higher Education Institutions imparting Education through Online mode. Subsequent to a Letter of Intent (LoI) for Online programmes given by University Grants Commission (UGC) for four Academic Programmes, three academic programmes through online mode were prepared and launched by the University. The three programmes were-Certificate in Arabic, Certificate in Russian and Certificate in Tourism studies. A copy of the COE presentation is placed as Annexure-3.
- P.B.48.7.2** The Planning Board while appreciating the launch of online programmes, observed that in today scenario Online content (Swayam / Moodle) should be made an integral part of any new and all the existing academic programmes of the University. The Planning Board advised that Online programme development may be further expedited with the Schools of Studies.
- P.B.48.7.3** With above deliberations, the Planning Board appreciated the progress made for Online programmes as per Letter of Intent given by University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations for the Academic Programmes of IGNOU.
- Action: COE*
- P.B.48.8** To consider the analytical report on the recommendations of Academic Programme Committee (1<sup>st</sup> APC to 57<sup>th</sup> APC).
- P.B.47.8.1** The Member Secretary informed and presented the Outcomes of Analytical Evaluation on action initiated / taken to comply recommendations of the Academic Programme Committee since its inception (1<sup>st</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> APC meeting). A copy of the P&DD presentation is placed as Annexure-4.
- P.B.47.8.2** The Board observed that a number of academic programmes are under development for a long-time after its formal approval from the APC. The approvals may be further examined for offering of Degree / Diploma programmes for Bachelor and other Degree / Diploma programmes. After examination, if required, a formal request as per procedure for closing of unviable academic programmes may be





initiated with due deliberations in-consultation with the respective Schools and School Board.

- P.B.47.8.3 With above deliberations, the Planning Board approved the analytical report on the recommendations of Academic Programme Committee (1<sup>st</sup> APC to 57<sup>th</sup> APC) with directions that concerned schools should initiate withdrawal of approvals accorded in past by APC/ACSC/AC if the development of programmes is still going-on and programmes not launched. A note from the concerned schools be sought on such withdrawals /delays.

*Action: All Schools of Studies, P&DD & ACD.*

- P.B.48.9 To consider the implementation of National Career Service (Ministry of Labour and Employment) and Campus Placement Cell Report.

- P.B.48.9.1 The Director, Campus Placement Cell (CPC) made a presentation and apprised the major achievements of the Campus Placement Cell. A copy of the CPC presentation is placed as Annexure-5.

- P.B.48.9.2 The Planning Board after deliberations, suggested for establishing network of IGNOU alumni and expedite the work on the implementation of National Career Service (Ministry of Labour and Employment).

- P.B.48.9.3 The Planning Board with above suggestions directed that the progress report of the above Campus Placement Cell (CPC) activities may be placed in the next Planning Board meeting.

*Action: CPC*

- P.B.48.10 To consider the international outreach through Overseas Study Centres of the University.

- P.B.48.10.1 The Director, International Division (ID) made a presentation and apprised the role and achievements of International Division in facilitating overseas students. He informed that at present, IGNOU has nineteen activated Overseas Centres and three Partner Institutions in fourteen countries. A copy of the presentation made by International Division is placed as Annexure-6.

- P.B.48.10.2 The Planning Board observed that earlier the numbers of these Overseas Centres were about sixty seven (67) spread across about 82 countries. After deliberations, it was opined that the recognition of Overseas study centres may be eased as per University norms. The statutory provisions

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for Overseas Centres with collaborative arrangements may be read in correct perspective and accordingly the University may draw a more smooth procedure for establishment of learning support system for international learners.

P.B.48.10.3

With above deliberations, the Planning Board noted the progress made by the University in reorganizing Overseas Centres and noted the efforts of the International Division in this regard.

*Action: ID*

P.B.48.11

**To consider offering of popular programmes in Regional Language(s) through Regional Centres of the University -Progress Report.**

P.B.48.11.1

The Director, Regional Services Division (RSD) made a presentation and briefed about the progress made on translation of courses into regional languages. A copy of the RSD presentation is placed as Annexure-7.

P.B.48.11.2

The Planning Board after deliberations, suggested that proposal of translation of study material should be approved by the concerned School Board before initiating the translation.

P.B.48.11.3

The Planning Board considered the proposal of offering of popular programmes in Regional Language(s) and accorded its approval for getting the study materials (SLM) translated in Regional languages after approval by respective School Boards. The Directors of Schools may be suitably advised to expedite it.

*Action: All Schools of Studies and RSD*

P.B.48.12

**To ratify fee reimbursement / exemption to the SC/ST Students to be admitted in January 2020 admission cycle as part of utilization of grants under SCSP and TSP components of the Budget in the Financial Year 2019-20.**

P.B.48.12.1

The Member Secretary informed that the Planning and Development Division was mandated to formulate the scheme of fee reimbursement for SC/ST students to utilize grants under SCSP and TSP components. The scheme was introduced in July 2015 admission cycle as per directives of MHRD. The University periodically evaluates utilization of SCSP and TSP grants before making decision on extending the scheme in the next admission cycle. The facility of fee exemption was extended to unemployed SC/ST students enrolled in undergraduate degree, Diploma and Certificate programmes in June 2019 and January 2020 admission cycles to utilize SCSP and TSP grant based on funds

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available in financial year 2019-2020.

**P.B.48.12.2** The Planning Board considered and ratified the fee reimbursement / exemption to the SC/ST Students admitted in January 2020 admission cycle as part of utilization of grants under SCSP and TSP components of the Budget in the Financial Year 2019-20.

*Action: P&DD*

**P.B.48.13** To consider publication of Statistical Information along with preliminary analysis of students' data with regard to successful completion of all academic programmes of the University.

**P.B.47.13.1** The Member Secretary informed that a Publication titled "Wings of Success: IGNOU Pass outs", was prepared by the Planning and Development Division. He briefed about the major findings and outcomes of analysis of performance of students who had qualified and awarded degrees from IGNOU.

**P.B.47.13.2** The Planning Board ratified the publication and suggested that the same may be updated on regular intervals and shared with various Schools / Divisions/Centers etc. in Digital format.

*Action: P&DD*

#### TABLED ITEM

**P.B.48.14** To consider the status of Gyan Vani (GV) FM Radio Channels and the Gyan Vani (GV) Stations.

**P.B.48.14.1** The Member Secretary informed that the Director, EMPC has submitted a proposal on the status of Gyan Vani (GV) FM Radio Channels and the Gyan Vani (GV) Stations.

**P.B.48.14.2** The Director, EMPC briefed that Gyan Vani is an educational FM Radio network that began operations in 2001 as a collaborative media initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for which IGNOU is the Nodal Organisation. It has been operating through FM radio stations in 37 cities of the country with a range of 70 to 100 Kms. The Gyanvani stations were broadcasting educational radio programmes in the remotest regions of the country. The broadcasting on Gyan Vani FM radio was discontinued w.e.f. October, 2014 due to various issues.

The University made sincere efforts to reactivate Gyan Vani. There is daily transmission of Gyan Vani Delhi. The Interactive Radio Counseling sessions have been scheduled every day since 2017.

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Transmission of GV radio was re-activated in various cities i.e. Jaipur, Pune, Madurai, Cochin, Chandigarh, Raipur, Jalandhar, and Bangalore.

Presently, the University is facing issues with the GV stations due to technical issues, license fee, economical issues for operating them and ageing of the infrastructure. A brief submitted by Director (EMPC) is placed as Annexure-8.

P.B.48.14.3

After deliberations, the Planning Board suggested that a Gyan Vani (GV) report may be prepared by EMPC with AIR Directorate - Prasar Bharati based on other alternative delivery mechanism options of Gyandhara, ip-radio, leasing air time on FM channels etc. The report should also have a cost benefit analysis of its GV Stations vis-à-vis with all other options for the benefit of different target groups of the University. The Planning Board also directed that a report be prepared by EMPC on academic benefits of Gyan Vani, particularly when other ICT enabled technologies are available. The Report may be completed on given time lines with specific recommendations to be considered by Board of Management (BoM).

P.B.48.14.4

With above suggestions, the Planning Board directed EMPC to prepare a detailed Proposal in respect of each Gyan Vani Station and place the same before the Board of Management(BoM) at its next meeting.

*Action: EMPC*

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
27/11/2020

(Pankaj Khare)

Member Secretary-PB