

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY
RASHTRAPATI NIVAS, SHIMLA – 171 005**

MINUTES OF THE 128TH (ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT) MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY, SHIMLA, HELD ON 08TH JANUARY 2026 (THURSDAY) AT 03:00 AM IN THE CAMP OFFICE OF THE INSTITUTE AT NEW DELHI.

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The 128th Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, was held under the Chairmanship of Professor Shailendra Raj Mehta (Vice-Chairman, Governing Body, IAS) on 08th January 2026. The list of the Members present is given at Annexure - 'A'.

At the outset, the Chair welcomed the Members present. Thereafter, the agenda was taken up for discussion.

2. Following are the proceedings of the meeting:

Item No.1: To confirm the minutes of the 127th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 16th September 2025.

The Minutes were confirmed.

Item No.2: To consider and approve the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the minutes of the 127th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 16th September 2025.

The Secretary, IAS, apprised the Committee of the action taken on the agenda items of the 127th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 16th September 2025, item-wise.

With regard to Item No. 5 of the Action Taken Report (ATR), it was apprised to the Finance Committee that CPWD had clarified that, in the initial estimate amounting to ₹5,22,89,000/- (Rupees Five Crore Twenty-Two Lakh Eighty-Nine Thousand only), provision was made only for a stone masonry gravity retaining wall at three locations—two near the main building and one near the heritage path.

After the untoward incident that occurred on 14th August 2023, the soil strata in the washed-out area of IAS became fragile. As a result, large boulders and mud from IAS land (from the washed-out/slide-affected area) were flowing downward towards the valley side, i.e., the Boileauganj–HPU Road (MC Road), thereby posing a serious risk to human life. This situation constituted a grave threat to all those on the valley side.

The preliminary estimate was not having any provision of cantilever retaining wall and plum concrete retaining walls were required to be contracted on valley side and along this RCC retaining wall/Boileauganj-HPU road (Municipal Corporation Road). The purpose of this small plum concrete retaining wall was to strengthen base of RCC retaining wall (on IIAS land) and to prevent any base failure & to ensure that IIAS land & its main building remains safe in future. This was also required to allow movement of traffic and pedestrian on Boileauganj-HPU road (MC Road) during construction of RCC retaining wall.

However, the CPWD did not seek administrative approval of the Institute before constructing this small plum concrete retaining wall for the purpose to strengthen base of RCC retaining wall (on IIAS land).

The CPWD was asked to review the revised estimate amounting to ₹14,82,11,595/- (Rupees Fourteen Crore Eighty-Two Lakh Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Five only), already submitted to the Institute, while taking into account all aspects concerning the safety of the Institute's property. The CPWD is yet to submit the revised estimate. Upon receipt of the revised estimate, the Institute will send it to the Ministry for concurrence.

With regard to Item No. 6, it was apprised that, in accordance with the approval of the Ministry of Education (MoE) conveyed vide its Letter No.6-7/2025-U.3, dated 19th December 2025, the Institute is in the process of releasing an advance of 50% of the estimated amount to HPSEBL prior to the tendering process. The remaining 50% will be released at the time of award of the tender by HPSEBL.

With regard to Item No.10, the Committee was apprised that the brass coated bust of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan will be installed at the Library of the Institute soon. After discussion, it was resolved by the Finance Committee to recommend to the Governing Body for installation of the brass coated bust of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan to the Library of the Institute, being an appropriate place.

Item No. 3: To consider and approve the utilization of Grant-in-Aid for the period from 01st April 2025 to 16th December 2025 under the approved budgetary heads for the Financial Year 2025-26.

After deliberations, the Committee approved the utilization of Grant-in-Aid for the period from 01st April 2025 to 16th December 2025 under the approved budgetary heads for the Financial Year 2025-26.

Item No.4: To take note of the Separate Audit Report (SAR) of Accounts of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) Society for the Financial Year 2024-25.

The Committee was briefed on the audit observations on the Annual Accounts of the Institute for the Financial Year 2024–25. The Committee was of the view that the audit observations were of a minor nature. However, it was recommended that the suggestions made by the audit be duly considered, and that the Annual Accounts of the Institute for the subsequent financial year be prepared keeping these suggestions in view.

Item No.5: To consider and approve the decisions taken in the meeting of the Director with the Section Heads of the Institute on various issues related to the Institute.

The Committee deliberated in detail on the decisions taken in the meeting of the Director with the Section Heads of the Institute and appreciated the efforts made by the Director to enhance the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the Institute. After due deliberation, the Finance Committee approved the proposed rates. It was further resolved by the Finance Committee to recommend to the Governing Body the decisions taken on various issues related to the Institute, for approval. The Finance Committee also resolved that the Institute may increase the ticket charges and other related charges by 5% annually, on the proposed/approved rates by the Finance Committee, from next year onwards.

Item No.6: To consider and approve the proposal for development of Kitchen Wing Area, Fire Station Café (vacated portion) and Squash Court for creation of an Integrated Visitor Interpretation Circuit at IIAS, Shimla.

The Committee was briefed about the development of Kitchen Wing Area and Fire Station Café (vacated portion) to be opened for the visitors and about the Squash Court for creation of an Integrated Visitor Interpretation Circuit to make it functional. After deliberations, the Committee resolved to recommend the proposal for the approval of the Governing Body.

Item No.7: To consider and approve the proposal for naming the Western Garden of the main building of the Institute as ‘Sardar Patel Udyan’ and for the installation of a life-size statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary Commemorative Celebrations.

The Committee discussed the proposal in detail. After due deliberation, it was resolved to approve the proposal *in principle* and recommend it to the Governing Body for approval, so that the same may be forwarded to the Ministry for concurrence.

Item No.8: Any other item(s) with the permission of the Chair.

The present arrangement about the repair and maintenance of the campus of Institute was discuss in detail. The Director and the Secretary briefed the Committee that, at present, the Institute is dependent on the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for routine minor repair and maintenance works. The Institute does not have a plumber, electrician, or other technical staff to attend to such routine maintenance activities.

It was further apprised that the Institute is also dependent on CPWD for major repair and restoration works of both residential and non-residential buildings. CPWD, after completion of the prescribed formalities, awards such works to third-party contractors, and payments to the contractors are made by CPWD through the grants-in-aid released by the Institute against these deposit works, with no control of the IIAS. It was also noted that the works assigned to CPWD are often not completed within the stipulated time despite repeated follow-up.

After detailed deliberations, the Committee recommended that the Institute may engage technical staff on an outsourced basis for routine maintenance. The Institute may also float tenders on its own, in accordance with the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017, as amended from time to time, and explore the possibility of engaging other government agencies for major repair and restoration works of residential and non-residential buildings of the Institute. For examination of technical specifications, the Institute may hire experts from govt./Autonomous Institutions on need basis such as other services like Chartered Accountant and others.

Additionally, it was discussed that the Institute does not have a Legal Advisor on its panel to seek advice on various legal matters. After discussion, it was resolved to recommend that the Institute may engage the services of a Legal Advisor as and when required, and that payment to the Legal Advisor may be made accordingly.

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

-Sd/-
(Himanshu Kumar Chaturvedi)
Director
08th January 2026

-Sd/-
(Shailendra Raj Mehta)
Chairman
08th January 2026

ANNEXURE-‘A’

List of Members of Finance Committee, IIAS, present in the 128th meeting:

1. Prof. Shailendra Raj Mehta, Vice-Chairman, Governing Body, IIAS – Chairman;
2. Prof. Himanshu Kumar Chaturvedi, Director, IIAS – Member;
3. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Director, IFD, Ministry of Education – Representative of the Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser, MoE.

Shri Mehar Chand Negi, Secretary, IIAS, also attended the meeting.
