

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

MINUTES OF THE 183RD (ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE) MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY, SHIMLA, HELD ON 09TH JANUARY 2026 (FRIDAY) AT 11:30 AM IN THE CAMP OFFICE OF THE INSTITUTE AT NEW DELHI (IN HYBRID MODE).

The 183rd Meeting of the Governing Body of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla, was held under the Chairmanship of Professor ShashiPrabha Kumar, Chairperson, Governing Body, on 09th January 2026. A list of the Members present is given at Annexure - 'A'.

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members present. Thereafter, the agenda was taken up.

Item-wise comments received from the office of the Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser (Higher Education), IFD, MoE vide e-mail dated 09th January 2026, were placed before the Governing Body.

2. The following are the proceedings of the meeting:

Item No.1: To confirm the Minutes of the 182nd meeting of the Governing Body held on 17th September 2025.

The minutes of the 182nd Meeting of the Governing Body held on 17th September 2025 were confirmed.

Item No.2: To approve the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the 182nd meeting of the Governing Body held on 17th September 2025.

The Secretary, IIAS, briefed the action taken on the Minutes of the 182nd meeting of the Governing Body held on 17th September 2025, item wise. After a detailed discussion, the Governing Body approved the Action Taken Report.

Item No.3: To consider and approve the Minutes of the 128th meeting of the Finance Committee scheduled for 08th January 2026.

The Secretary, IIAS, apprised the Governing Body of the agenda items discussed in the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 08th January 2026 and the recommendations made thereon. After detailed discussion, the Governing Body resolved

to approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee with the following observations:

- (a) With regard to the Item No.2 of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the minutes of the 127th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 16th September 2025, the Governing Body opined that upon receipt of revised estimate for repair and restoration of retaining walls of North-western side of the main building of the Institute, it may be placed before the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) once again. Thereafter, the revised estimate along with the recommendations of the PIC, it may be sent to the Ministry for consideration and approval.
- (b) As to Item No. 5 concerning the decisions taken in the meeting of the Director with the Section Heads of the Institute on various issues, the Governing Body was of the view that the ticket charges for guided tours for foreign nationals may be revised to ₹200/- for Lawns & Gardens and ₹1,000/- for the Guided Tour.
- (c) With regard to Item No.6 regarding use of Squash Court for creation of an Integrated Visitor Interpretation Circuit, it was resolved that the Director may use his discretion to waive off the prescribed charges, if there is any activity which can be interpreted as in the interest of the Institute.
- (d) On Item No.7 regarding 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, it was decided that keeping the view the heritage character of the Institute, the proposal may be sent to the Ministry for consideration and approval.
- (e) Regarding Item No. 8 (Any other item with the permission of the Chair), the Governing Body opined that while engaging technical staff such as electricians, plumbers, etc. on an outsourced basis for routine maintenance, their services should be utilized outside the main building of the Institute only. Also, this work may be undertaken after preparing a proper maintenance plan/SoP to avoid any future complications.

Item No.4. To consider and approve the draft Annual Report of the Institute for the year 2024-25.

The Secretary, IIAS, briefed the key-points of the Annual Report of the Institute for the year 2024-25. After deliberations, the Governing Body approved the Annual Report for the year 2024-25 and further recommended that the same may be placed it before the IIAS Society for concurrence.

Item No.5: To ratify the action taken by the Chairperson, Governing Body in approving the composition of the Academic Committee.

The Governing Body ratified the action taken by the Chairperson, Governing Body in approving the composition of the Academic Committee.

Item No.6: To consider and approve the re-constitution of the Fellowship Award Committee for 2026.

The Governing Body considered and approved the re-constitution of the Fellowship Award Committee.

Item No.7: To ratify the action taken by the Chairperson, Governing Body, regarding continuation of the term of Fellowship of Dr. Debika Saha and Kumari Aadya Dixit, Fellows.

The Governing Body ratified the action taken by the Chairperson, Governing Body.

Item No.8: To consider and approve the request for modification in the title of the research proposal submitted by Dr. Mahak Uppal, Fellow of the Institute.

After discussion, the Governing Body considered and approved the request of Dr. Mahak Uppal, Fellow, for modification in the title of her research proposal.

Item No.9: To nominate eminent scholars for delivering the 28th Annual Radhakrishnan Memorial Lecture (RKML).

The Governing Body discussed the names of eminent scholars for delivering the 28th Annual Radhakrishnan Memorial Lecture (RKML). It was resolved that the Members of the Governing Body would share the names of eminent scholars with the Director, IAS. Thereafter, the Director, IAS, in consultation with the Chairperson, Governing Body, will finalize a name of the scholar to be invited to deliver the 28th Annual Radhakrishnan Memorial Lecture.

Item No.10: To nominate eminent scholars for delivering the 11th Annual Tagore Memorial Lecture (RTML) under the Tagore Centre for the Study of Culture and Civilization.

The Governing Body authorized the Director, IAS, to finalize the name of an eminent scholar for delivering the 11th Annual Tagore Memorial Lecture (RTML) under the Tagore Centre for the Study of Culture and Civilization, in consultation with the Members of the Governing Body and its Chairperson.

Item No.11: To consider and approve the promotion of Shri Keshav Ram to the post of Garden Chowdhary.

The matter with regard to promotion of Shri Keshav Ram to the post of Garden Chowdhary was placed before the Governing Body at its 182nd meeting held on 17th September 2025. However, it was resolved by the Governing Body to defer the item for the time being.

The Governing Body deliberated on the matter in detail. The comments of the Integrated Finance Division (IFD), MoE, on the agenda items of the meeting, received by e-mail dated 09th January 2026, were also placed before the Governing Body. The IFD mentioned in its comments against this item that since the proposal would require relaxation in approved RRs, a proposal for may be sent to MoE for consideration. However, after discussion at length, the Governing Body resolved that the Institute may obtain legal advice from the Legal Advisor of the Institute and then send the matter, along with the legal advice, to the Ministry for consideration and a decision.

Item No.12: To consider and approve the adoption of the enhancement of maximum limit of Gratuity on reaching the Dearness Allowance rates to 50%.

The Governing Body considered and approved the adoption of the enhancement of maximum limit of Gratuity in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, New Delhi, vide Office Memorandum No.28/03/2024-P&PW(B)/Gratuity/9559, dated 30th May 2024.

Item No.13: To consider the request of Shri Mehar Chand Negi for extension in tenure as Secretary of IAS.

The Governing Body resolved that the request of Shri Mehar Chand Negi along with the recommendations of the Director, IAS, may be sent to the Ministry for consideration.

Item No.14: To consider the proposal of some amendments in the Study Leave Rules for the Fellows of the Institute.

The Governing Body deliberated on the matter at length. It was noted that residence at the Institute is compulsory for all Fellows from 1 March to 15 December, and optional from 16 December to 28 February, when Fellows may avail study leave for undertaking study tours to consult libraries, archives, etc., outside Shimla.

However, taking into consideration the changed circumstances such as availability of books/resources in digital form and inter-library loan facility etc., the Governing Body opined that in addition to the proposed amendments to the Study Leave Proforma, under the TA Rules for the guidance of the Fellows, the Institute should take the following two actions before approving the Study Leave applied for by the Fellow concerned:

- (i) The Institute will try to procure the materials required by the Fellows for their research project in its Library within the stipulated time period; and
- (ii) The Fellows should submit a detailed report (approximately five pages) explaining how the visit to the concerned library/institute would contribute to their research work, before applying for Study Leave.

Item No.15: To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Publication Advisory Committee (PAC).

The Secretary apprised the Governing Body of the agenda items of the Publication Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting held on 04th November 2025 and the recommendations of the PAC thereon.

Regarding the co-publication model for manuscripts submitted by the Fellows of the Institute, the Governing Body approved the proposal in principle. However, it was resolved that the Institute may work out the modalities of this model and prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP), which may be placed before the Governing Body at its next meeting for consideration.

Item No.16: To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Library Advisory Committee (LAC).

The Governing Body discussed the recommendations of the Library Advisory Committee (LAC) made in the meeting held on 06th November 2025, item-wise. It was noted that a single subscription (ONOS) covers the e-journals and resources in all academic fields. Therefore, the Institute may assess the usage of these e-contents and subscribe to additional e-content platforms only, if required.

Item No.17: To consider and approve the revised leave rules for the National Fellows.

The Governing Body took note of the existing leave applicable to the National Fellows. However, taking into consideration, the seniority and age-related constraints, it was resolved that the National Fellows may be allowed an additional 30 days of Study Leave over and above the existing entitlement. However, the provision of TA/DA shall be applicable for 30 days and for one occasion in a year only.

Item No.18: To consider the revival of International Centre for Human Development (IC4HD) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Governing Body deliberated on the matter in detail. However, it was resolved that it would be appropriate for the Institute to explore the possibility for signing

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with other research institutions, such as the ICCR, enabling the IAS to invite foreign scholars.

Item No.19: To consider the proposal for organizing “*Painting Workshop cum Camp–2026*” under the ‘Artists Residency’ project at the IAS, Shimla.

The Governing Body discussed the matter at length and opined that it may not be appropriate for the Institute to organize such a workshop.

Item No.20: To consider the proposal of Professor Shankar Saran, former National Fellow, IAS, with regard to preparation of two books for the Souvenir Shop of IAS.

After due deliberations, the Governing Body considered and approved the proposal.

Item No.21: To consider and approve the proposal for organizing a Winter School on *Lok-Ramayana: The living Legacy of the Ram Katha in Bhartiya Folk and Indigenous Traditions*.

The Governing Body considered and approved the proposal.

Item No.22: To consider and approve the proposal for introducing non-residential honorary Fellowship Programme at the Institute.

The Governing Body discussed the proposal at length and opined that the Institute may introduce this non-residential academic engagement programme by naming it as “*Scholars at Large*.” It was suggested that the grant for long-term engagement (two years) may be enhanced to ₹2.5 lakh (consolidated). Further, the number of scholars may be increased to four for long-term and six for short-term engagements.

Item No.23: To consider and approve the proposal for introducing Radhakrishnan Fellowship and Deendayal Upadhyaya Fellowship at the Institute.

The Governing Body deliberated on the proposal and approved it in principle. It was further resolved that the Institute may send a detailed proposal to the Ministry for concurrence.

Item No.24: To consider and approve the proposal for Field Study on Women-Centric Flagship Schemes of Government of India in rural Himachal Pradesh.

The Governing Body discussed the proposal at length and resolved that it may not be appropriate for the Institute to undertake the proposal in this form. However, a workshop on the theme may be organized. On the basis of the output of the workshop, a revised proposal may be prepared and placed before the Academic Committee.

Item No.25: To consider and approve the proposal for organizing an Art Camp on *Folk and Rural Imagery in Kangra Miniatures: An Indigenous Indian Art Perspective* at the Institute.

The Governing Body considered and approved the proposal for organizing an Art Camp on *Folk and Rural Imagery in Kangra Miniatures: An Indigenous Indian Art Perspective* at the Institute.

Item No.26: To consider and approve the Director's Report on academic and other activities at the Institute during the period from 01st September 2025 to 05th December 2025.

The Governing Body considered and approved the Director's Report for period from 01st September 2025 to 05th December 2025.

Supplementary Agenda Item:

Item No.27: To keep the Governing Body informed of the status of the Original Application (OA) No.063/00926/2017 (titled Shri Khem Raj Verma & Others Vs. UoI & Others) and CWP No.17922/2025 (UoI & Anr. Vs. Khem Raj Verma & Ors) regarding regularization of the services.

The matter regarding regularization of services filed by five contractual employees in the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was reported to the Governing Body at its 182nd meeting held on 17th September 2025. It was resolved by the Governing Body that the Institute may contest the case in an appropriate court of law.

The Secretary apprised the Governing Body of the developments in the case since the last meeting of the Governing Body held on 17th September 2025. The Governing Body noted that the contractual employment given by the Institute to five persons, in question, was not against any sanctioned post and, therefore, the Governing Body is not empowered to regularize their services. Accordingly, it was reiterated by the Governing Body that under the circumstances, the Institute has now no option but to contest the case in an appropriate court of law, as decided earlier.

Item No.28: Any other Item(s) with the permission of the Chair.

With the permission of the Chair, the following two items were taken in the meeting:

Item No.I: To consider and approve the proposal for seeking permission for applying for Museum Grant Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, for the renovation/upgradation/modernization of galleries.

The Director mentioned that the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, operates a Museum Grant Scheme providing financial assistance for renovation, repair,

extension, and modernization of galleries, which aligns closely with the Institute's ongoing development objectives.

After detailed discussion, the Governing Body granted permission to apply for financial assistance through the above-mentioned scheme.

Item No.II: To consider and approve the proposal for organizing a two-day National Seminar on “*Social and Cultural Dimensions of Vande Matram*” in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra.

The Governing Body was apprised that the Institute has received a proposal to organize a two-day National Seminar on “*Social and Cultural Dimensions of Vande Mataram*” in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra. The proposal says that the expenditure towards board and lodging of the participants will be borne by Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha. The University has further mentioned that expenditure towards travel of the participants, honorarium and expenditure towards the publication of seminar proceedings will be the responsibility of the Institute. The total expenditure is estimated to be approximately Rs.2.75 lakh.

The Governing Body deliberated on the proposal and approved it considering the fact that the seminar would strengthen academic collaboration between the two institutions of national importance. However, the Governing Body mentioned that the Institute should not spend more than Rs.2.25 lakh on travel of the participants. This apart, the Institute will have the right to publish the proceedings of the seminar.

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

-Sd/-
(Himanshu Kumar Chaturvedi)
Director
09th January 2026

-Sd/-
(ShashiPrabha Kumar)
Chairperson
09th January 2026

Annexure - 'A'

List of Members of Governing Body, IAS present in the 183rd meeting:

1. Professor ShashiPrabha Kumar, Chairperson, Governing Body, IAS – In Chair;
2. Professor Shailendra Raj Mehta, Vice-Chairman, Governing Body, IAS – Member;
3. Professor Himanshu Kumar Chaturvedi, Director, IAS – Member;
4. Professor Raghuvendra Tanwar, Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi – Member;
5. Professor Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, Chairman, Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi – Member;
6. Shri Subrat Kumar Pradhan, Director (ICR Division), Ministry of Education – Representative of the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MoE;
7. Shri Vivek Kumar, Under Secretary, Integrated Finance Division (IFD), Ministry of Education – Representative of JS&FA, MoE (in virtual mode).

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

List of Members who were unable to attend the above meeting:

1. The Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi;
2. The Chairman, Indian Council of Social Sciences & Research (ICSSR), New Delhi;
3. The Director-General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi.
