

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

**MINUTES OF THE 184TH (ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR) MEETING OF THE
GOVERNING BODY OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY, SHIMLA,
HELD ON 11TH MAY 2026 AT NEW DELHI.**

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The 184th (One hundred eighty-four) 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 11th May 2026 (Monday) at 02:30 PM in the Camp Office of the Institute at New Delhi (in Hybrid Mode). A list of the Members present is given at **Annexure – ‘I’**.

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members present, and thanked them for sparing their valuable time to attend the meeting. The comments received from the office of the Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor (Department of Higher Education), IFD, MoE, vide e-mail dated 07th May 2026, were placed before the Governing Body for information.

2. The following are the proceedings of the meeting:

Item No.1: To confirm the Minutes of the 183rd meeting of the Governing Body held on 09th January 2026.

The Minutes of the 183rd Meeting of the Governing Body, held on 09th January 2026, were circulated among the Members of the Governing Body by e-mail dated 16th January 2026 for information and comments. In response, Shri Subrat Kumar Pradhan, Director (ICR), Ministry of Education (Representative of the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MoE) sent his observations on the Minutes through an e-mail dated 27th January 2026, which were discussed in details during the meeting.

With regard to **Item No.3** of the minutes of 183rd meeting of the Governing Body held on 08th January 2026 (i.e., the Minutes of the 128th meeting of the Finance Committee scheduled for 08th January 2026), the Governing Body

resolved that the buildings earmarked as residences for Fellows may be used exclusively for Fellows and may not be used as an extension of the guest house.

Further, the Governing Body resolved that the western garden of the main building of the Institute may be named as '*Sardar Patel Udyan*' after completion of codal formalities. However, it was also resolved that the installation of a life-size statue of *Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel* in the western garden may not be appropriate in view of the heritage character of the Institute.

As regards **Item No.13** of the 183rd meeting of the Governing Body, it was mentioned by the Director, IAS, that in accordance with the directions of the Ministry vide Letter No.6-6/2012-U.3, dated 11th March 2026, the Institute is in process of advertising the post of the Secretary, IAS, in the National Newspapers including Employment News. A copy of the advertisement will also be sent to the Ministry and DoPT in accordance with the DoPT guidelines. The matter with regard to composition of the Search-cum-Selection Committee for appointment of the Secretary, IAS, has been placed in the present meeting of the Governing Body (184th) for a decision.

With regard to **Item No. 22** of the 183rd Meeting of the Governing Body, the Director, IAS, apprised the members that a detailed proposal for the selection of '*Scholars at Large*' was prepared and circulated among the Members of the Governing Body vide e-mail dated 17th March 2026. The Governing Body approved the proposal. Since the introduction of this non-residential honorary Fellowship Programme involves financial implications, the proposal was forwarded to the Ministry of Education vide Letter No.IAS/GB/183/2025-26, dated 30th March 2026, for consideration and approval. The Governing Body opined that, since the detailed proposal has already been approved by the Governing Body, the Institute may implement the honorary Fellowship Programme by incorporating it into the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between the Institute and the Ministry, and report the matter to the Governing Body at its next meeting.

In this regard, the Director mentioned that the proposal concerning '*Scholars at Large*', along with the proposals for the introduction of the Radhakrishnan Fellowship and the Deendayal Upadhyaya Fellowship, has already been forwarded to the Ministry. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the Institute to implement the honorary Fellowship Programme ('*Scholars at Large*'), the Radhakrishnan Fellowship,

and the Deendayal Upadhyaya Fellowship only after obtaining the approval of the Ministry.

As regards **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 resolved that the Institute may first organize a Workshop on the flagship schemes of the Government of India and the output of the workshop may be placed before the Governing Body for a decision.

Item No.2: To approve the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the 183rd meeting of the Governing Body held on 09th January 2026.

The Secretary, IIAS, briefed the action taken on the Minutes of the 183rd meeting of the Governing Body held on 09th January 2026. After a detailed discussion, the Governing Body approved the Action Taken Report.

Item No.3: To approve the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the Special Meeting (183–A) of the Governing Body held on 18th April 2026.

The Director, IIAS, apprised the Governing Body that the matter concerning the incident that occurred on 10th April 2026 at around 9:30 a.m., relating to the repair and restoration of the collapsed retaining wall located on the north-western side of the main building of the Institute, was reported to the Governing Body at its Special Meeting held on 18th April 2026. In accordance with the resolution of the Governing Body, the Institute has already served a legal notice on the Superintending Engineer, CPWD, Shimla, on 30th April 2026. The Institute has also written to the Director General, CPWD, New Delhi, vide letter dated 02nd May 2026, seeking appropriate action in the matter.

The Committee constituted by the Institute, comprising Dr. K.V. Uday, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Mandi; Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Senior Principal Scientist, CBRI-CSIR, Roorkee; and Shri Mehar Chand Negi, Secretary, IIAS, has already submitted its preliminary report, which was placed before the Governing Body for perusal. It was further informed that samples collected by the Committee from the collapsed retaining wall were sent by the Institute to the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, for examination. Accordingly, the Committee will submit its detailed report in due course.

The Director, IIAS, also apprised the Governing Body that the situation at

the site continued to remain precarious. Further, in view of the approaching monsoon season, there is a possibility of further damage of the retaining wall. Therefore, the Institute has been continuously writing to the CPWD and the District Administration, requesting them to take precautionary measures in the interest of public safety and to avoid any untoward incident.

Further, the Director informed the Governing Body that the CPWD has constituted its own Inquiry Committee to investigate the incident that occurred on 10th April 2026 and has conveyed its willingness to undertake reconstruction/restoration work of the collapsed retaining wall on its own. However, no work has been initiated by the CPWD so far.

After detailed deliberations, it was resolved that the recommendations made by the Committee constituted by the Institute may be shared with the CPWD for appropriate action. It was further resolved that the Secretary, IIAS, may have a meeting with the Additional Director General (ADG), CPWD, so that the work of reconstruction/restoration of the collapsed retaining wall commences at the earliest in order to avoid any untoward incident in view of the forthcoming monsoon season.

Item No.4: To consider and approve the Minutes of the 129th meeting of the Finance Committee scheduled for 11th May 2026.

The minutes of the meeting of Finance Committee held on 11th May 2026 at 11.00 AM were placed before the Governing Body. The Secretary, IIAS, apprised the Governing Body about the items discussed in the meeting. After due discussion, the Governing Body approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee. It was also resolved that the minutes of the meeting may also be sent to the office of the Joint Secretary & Finance Advisor, IFD Division, Ministry of Education, for comments, if any.

Item No.5: To ratify the action taken by the Chairperson, GB in approving the minutes of the Academic Committee meeting held on 25th March 2026.

The Director, IIAS, apprised the Governing Body of the proposals for organizing seminars and conferences received by the Institute.

After deliberations, the Governing Body ratified the action taken by the Chairperson, Governing Body in approving the recommendations of the Academic Committee.

Item No.6: To consider and approve the recommendations of the Fellowship Award Committee for Award of Fellowship and Tagore Fellowship at the Institute.

After due deliberations, the Governing Body approved the recommendations of the Fellowship Award Committee (FAC).

Item No.7: To consider and approve the composition of the Search-cum-Selection Committee for appointment of the Secretary.

The Governing Body resolved to authorize the Chairperson, Governing Body, to nominate one member of the Governing Body to the composition of the Search-cum-Selection Committee for the appointment of the Secretary.

Item No.8: To consider and approve the request for premature relinquishment of Fellowship of the Institute by Dr. Harsha Trivedi, Fellow.

The Director informed the Governing Body about the details of case of Dr. Harsha Trivedi. The Governing Body considered and accepted the request made by Dr. Trivedi for premature relinquishment of Fellowship of the Institute, subject to the provisions of Clause No.13 of the terms & conditions governing the Fellowship awarded to Dr. Harsha Trivedi.

Item No.9: To apprise the Governing Body of the visits of VVIPs to the Institute during May and July 2026.

The Director apprised the Governing Body that the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India, has kindly consented to visit the Institute on 21st May 2026 for unveiling the bust of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Founder of the Institute, and for inaugurating the three-day International Seminar titled '*Tracing Roots of Bhāratīya Jñāna Paramāparā in Contemporary Practice of Classical Arts*', being organized on the occasion of the completion of sixty years of the Institute.

The Director further informed the Governing Body that the Hon'ble Vice-President of India has also consented to visit the Institute on 10th July 2026 to inaugurate the permanent exhibition on *Vande Mataram*, commemorating 150 years of the national mantra, along with the International Seminar titled "*Sardar Patel's Vision: Integration, Unification and Federalism.*"

The Director also apprised the Governing Body that the Institute is in the process of preparing a Coffee Table Book on *Vande Mataram*. It was further informed

that the expenditure towards the preparation of permanent exhibition slides/panels, the Coffee Table Book, and a token honorarium for the artist to be engaged for preparing the exhibition slides, is estimated to be approximately Rs.8.5 lakh.

The Governing Body deliberated upon the proposal and approved the same.

Item No.10: To consider the proposal for entrustment of work of translation of *Gitanjali*, a poetry collection of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, into Kannada language under the aegis of the Centre for Tagore Studies, to Professor S. Ranganath, Fellow.

It was brought to the notice of the Governing Body that one of the academic activities envisaged under the Centre for Tagore Studies is the publication of a volume of poems of Rabindranath Tagore in all Indian languages every alternate year. However, the Institute has not been able to undertake this activity so far.

The Governing Body was further informed that, in order to initiate translation work under the activities of the Centre, Professor S. Ranganath, former Director of Sanskrit Studies and presently a Fellow at the Institute, had consented to translate *Gitanjali* by Rabindranath Tagore into Kannada.

The Governing Body deliberated upon the matter in detail and approved the proposal for entrusting the work of translation of *Gitanjali* into Kannada to Professor S. Ranganath under the activities of the Centre for Tagore Studies.

In addition to the facilities of residential accommodation and a study room at the Institute during the period of the assignment, the Governing Body approved the payment of a token honorarium of ₹1,50,000/- to Professor S. Ranganath upon completion of the said work. The proposed timeline for completion of the translation work shall be approximately six months.

Item No.11: To consider and approve the proposal for enhancement of honorarium to the artists of Art Camp on *Folk and Rural Imagery in Kangra Miniatures: An Indigenous Indian Art Perspective* at the Institute.

The Director apprised the Members of the Governing Body that the proposal regarding organization of an Art Camp on “*Folk and Rural Imagery in Kangra Miniatures: An Indigenous Indian Art Perspective*” at the Institute was

approved in its previous meeting held on 09th January 2026.

The Governing Body was further informed that the Institute had earlier organized similar painting workshops/art camps in the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2016, and 2022, wherein the participating artists were paid an honorarium of ₹25,000/- each artist. However, inadvertently, the amount of honorarium was mentioned as ₹10,000/- per artist in the proposal placed before the Governing Body at its meeting held on 09th January 2026, and the same was accordingly approved.

In view of the past practice of the Institute and considering the error in the proposal, the Governing Body considered the matter and endorsed the enhancement of honorarium to ₹25,000/- each artist.

Item No.12: To consider and approve the proposal for co-publication model for the manuscripts submitted by the Fellows, seminar proceedings and journals.

The Director apprised the Governing Body of the efforts made by the Institute towards adopting a co-publication model for the manuscripts submitted by the Fellows, seminar proceedings, and the journals published by the Institute on a half-yearly basis, in accordance with the discussions held at the last meeting of the Governing Body on 09th January 2026.

After detailed deliberations on the recommendations of the Publication Advisory Committee (PAC) regarding the proposed co-publication model of the Institute, the Governing Body approved the proposal for adoption of the co-publication model in collaboration with reputed publishers.

Item No.13: To report about the functioning of the Camp Office-cum-Guest House of the Institute at New Delhi – regarding.

After detailed deliberations, the Governing Body resolved that the Camp Office-cum-Guest House of the Institute at New Delhi, may be closed at the earliest.

The Governing Body further resolved that, in case any administrative or functional difficulties arise in future on account of the closure of the Camp Office-cum-Guest House, the matter may be referred to the appropriate forum for reconsideration and a decision.

Item No.14: To consider nomination of eminent scholars for Award of National Fellowship.

After due deliberations, the Governing Body authorized the Chairperson, Governing Body, to constitute a Committee for recommending a panel of eminent scholars for award of the National Fellowship at the Institute. The Committee shall also consider the applications received by the Institute for award of National Fellowship while preparing the panel of names. The recommendations of the Committee may thereafter be placed before the Governing Body for approval.

Item No.15: To consider and approve the proposal for establishment of a Centre for the Preservation of the Heritage of Palaeographic Scripts and Manuscripts of the districts of Shimla, Sirmaur, and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh (metadata creation, digitization, preservation, conservation, and restoration), in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The Director apprised the Members of the Governing Body that the Institute has organized a two-day workshop on “*Preservation of Palaeographic Heritage of Himachali Scripts and Manuscripts in the Western Himalaya*” from 21st to 22nd April 2026.

The Director further apprised that, following the deliberations held during the Workshop, the Institute has prepared a proposal under the *Gyan Bharatam Mission* introduced by the Government of India, for establishment of a Centre for the Preservation of the Heritage of Palaeographic Scripts and Manuscripts of the districts of Shimla, Sirmaur, and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, with activities relating to metadata creation, digitization, preservation, conservation, restoration, and translation of manuscripts, under the *Gyan Bharatam Mission* of the Government of India, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

After extensive discussion on the matter, the Governing Body accorded in-principle approval to the proposal and recommended that the Institute shall provide only the required space and infrastructural support for the proposed Centre, whereas the financial support for the Centre shall be sought from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The proposal may accordingly be forwarded to the Ministry of Culture through the Ministry of Education for further consideration and concurrence.

Item No.16: To consider and approve the creation of posts in the Hindi Cell of the Institute under Official Language Policy.

The Secretary apprised the Members of Governing Body regarding the circular dated 11th July 2025 of the Ministry of Education (Department of Official Language), and subsequent reminders thereof.

After detailed deliberations on the matter, the Governing Body resolved that the Institute, if required, may engage suitable staff on an outsourced basis for implementation of Official Language work.

Item No.17: To report the Orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh, CWP No.17922 of 2025 tilted UOI and Another Vs. Khem Raj Verma and another.

After discussion at length, the Governing Body resolved that the matter may be followed up with the Ministry of Education for filing a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter at the earliest.

Item No.18: To consider and approve the Director's Report on academic and other activities at the Institute during the period from 06th December 2025 to 15th April 2026.

The Governing Body considered and resolved to approve the Director's Report.

Item No.19: Any other Item(s) with the permission of the Chair.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Governing Body, the following item was placed before the Governing Body:

Item No.(i): To ratify the action taken by the Director in accepting the request of Dr. Subodh Kant Mishra, Fellow, for premature relinquishment of the Fellowship of the Institute.

The Director, IIAS, apprised the Members of the Governing Body that Dr. Subodhkant Misra, Fellow of the Institute, has been selected for the post of Assistant Professor at the Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Centre of Studies in Indic Civilization and Religious Traditions, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. Accordingly, Dr. Misra has requested early relinquishment from the Institute in order to join the University, which was approved. He has further requested that he may be granted time up to 27th July 2027 for submission of the manuscript pertaining to the work undertaken during his tenure as a Fellow at the Institute.

After detailed deliberations on the matter, the Governing Body ratified the

action taken by the Director, IIAS, and further resolved that the Institute may write to the Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, informing that Dr. Subodhkant Misra is required to submit his manuscript within the stipulated period.

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

-Sd/-
(Himanshu Kumar Chaturvedi)
Director

-Sd/-
(ShashiPrabha Kumar)
Chairperson

Annexure - 'I'

List of Members of Governing Body, IAS present in the 184th 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;
6. Shri Subrat K. Pradhan, Director, ICR Division, Ministry of Education, Representative of Secretary, MoE;
7. Shri Jyoti Ranjan, Under Secretary, ICR Division, Ministry of Education – Representative of the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MoE;
8. 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 Director-General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi;
3. The Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.