

Association of Indian Universities
Minutes: 383rd Governing Council Meeting

M I N U T E S

Venue: AIU House
Mode: Online

Date: June 30, 2025
Time: 03.00 pm

Present

1. Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, President, AIU	In Chair
2. Prof. G D Sharma, Imm Past President, AIU	Member
3. Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai	Member
4. Prof. Sangeeta Shukla	Member
5. Prof. Sat Prakash Bansal	Member
6. Prof. C Patvardhan	Member
7. Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa	Member
8. Prof. (Dr.) Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay	Member
9. Prof. Anand Kumar Tyagi	Member
10. Dr. Shashank D. Dalvi	Member
11. Prof. Manoj K Arora	Member
12. Dr. M Vijayakumar	Member
13. Prof. P L Dharma	Member
14. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar	Member
15. Prof. Pravat Kumar Roul	Member
16. Dr. Alok Kumar Chakrawal	Member
17. Prof. Yogesh Singh	Member
18. Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, SG, AIU	Member Secretary

Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, Prof. Yogesh Singh and Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal attended the meeting in physical mode. The rest of the members joined the meeting virtually.

The following members could not attend the meeting due to some unavoidable reasons and were granted leave of absence:

1. Prof P J Narayanan
2. Dr. Rajan Welukar
3. Prof. Harilal B Menon
4. Prof. (Dr.) B L Sharma

The President, and Secretary General, AIU warmly welcomed all the esteemed members of the Governing Council of the Association, especially Prof. (Dr.) Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay and Prof P J Narayanan who were attending GC meeting for the first time

After this, agenda items were taken up for discussion, consideration, and decision.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

383/01 To confirm the Minutes of the 382nd Governing Council Meeting held on January 03, 2025.

Confirmed.

ACTION TAKEN ON THE MINUTES

383/02 To report action taken on the minutes of the 382nd Governing Council Meeting held on January 03, 2025.

Noted.

ITEMS FOR REPORTING

383/03 To report the grant of membership of the Association of Indian Universities to the following Universities:

[Note: The Governing Council in its 365th GC Meeting held on September 14, 2021 resolved to authorize the President of the Association to approve the grant of membership of AIU to the applicant universities subject to fulfillment of the condition of AIU rules and regulations and the matter be reported to the GC subsequently.

{State Public Universities -05; State Private Universities- 16; Associate Member University-01, INI- 03, Deemed to be University (Private) -03 (Total-28)}

The University should be registered u/s 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956.

- (1) Kaveri University, Siddipet, Telangana w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (2) NIST University, Berhampur, Odisha w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (3) Sri Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural University, Telangana w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (4) South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (5) The Charutar Vidya Mandal (CVM) University, Vallabh Vidhyanagar, Gujarat w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (6) Anjaneya University, Raipur, w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (7) NICMAR University of Construction Studies, Hyderabad, Telangana w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (8) Indian Institute of Information Technology, Una, Himachal Pradesh w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (9) JNCT Professional University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (10) Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth, Hyderabad, Telangana w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (11) Noble University, Junagadh, Gujarat w.e.f. 01.04.2025.

- (12) Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (13) Sibsagar University, Sivasagar, Assam w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (14) Bihar Sports University, Nalanda, Bihar w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (15) Krantisurya Tantya Bhil University, Kharogne, Madhya Pradesh w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (16) Bharti Vishwavidyalaya, Durg, Chhattisgarh w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (17) Indian Institute of Information Technology, Agartala, Tripura w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (18) Madhav Institute of Technology & Science, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (19) Sardar Vallabhbhai Global University, Ahmadabad, Gujarat w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (20) Sreenidhi University, Hyderabad, Telangana w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (21) The Global University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh w.e.f. 03.04.2025 (Date of UGC Letter).
- (22) Sona Devi University (SDU), Ghatsila, Jharkhand w.e.f. 01.04.2025
- (23) Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (24) Harcourt Butler Technical University, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh w.e.f. 09.05.2025 (Date of the approval of the President, AIU).
- (25) Aditya University, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh w.e.f. 03.04.2025 (Date of UGC Letter).
- (26) National Institute of Technology, Delhi w.e.f. 01.04.2025.
- (27) Centurion University of Technology and Management, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh w.e.f. 06.06.2025 (Date of the approval of the President, AIU).
- (28) Chandigarh University, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh w.e.f. 01.04.2025

Noted and Approved.

183/04 To report the following changes in the composition of AIU Governing Council:

- (1) Dr. Shashank D. Dalvi, VC, Dr. MGM Institute of Health Sciences (Deemed to be University, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra was nominated on the Governing Council of the Association on the basis of his individual seniority from West Zone for the period of two years i.e., from 09.03.2025 to 08.03.2027 in place of Prof Anup K Singh, DG, Nirma University, Ahmadabad who has completed his tenure on the Governing Council on 08.03.2025.

Noted.

183/05 To report the forwarding of 'Proposal for Expanding the Scope of AIU' to Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

Noted.

383/06 To present a report on the Centenary Celebrations of the Association.

Noted.

383/07 To report that GUAF chair has been transitioned from China Association of Higher Education (CAHE) to the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and AIU will host the 4th GUAF in Autumn 2025 in New Delhi. The same was announced during 3rd Annual Meeting of the Global University Associations Forum (GUAF), held in Beijing, China, from 11-12 October 2024, chaired by China Association of Higher Education (CAHE).

Noted with appreciation. This is a matter of pride for AIU.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

383/08 To receive the Annual Report of the AIU for the year 2024-25.

Noted and Approved.

HOSTING OF NEXT (100th) ANNUAL MEETING

383/09 To consider hosting the next (100th) Annual General Body Meeting of the Association in the year 2026 in West Zone.

[Note: In order of rotation, it is the turn of the West Zone to host the next (100th) Annual meeting of the Association in the year 2026.

AIU had invited proposals from the Member Universities in West Zone to host the Annual General Meeting of the Association in the year 2026 by April 15, 2025, in response of which the following Universities have agreed to host the next Annual Meeting:

1. Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pimpri, Pune (Deemed to be University), Maharashtra
2. D Y Patil University, Nerul, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
3. Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur, Rajasthan
4. G H Rasoni University, Amravati, Maharashtra

The GC deliberated on the matter in detail and it was unanimously resolved to authorize President, AIU to select the host university out of

four universities from whom EoI have been received for hosting the 100th AIU Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors in the year 2026.

- 383/10 To consider and approve the items to be included in the agenda of the General and Business Session of the AIU 99th Annual Meeting.

Approved.

- 383/11 To consider and approve the minutes of the Equivalence Committee held on April 11, 2025.

Approved.

- 383/12 To consider and approve the proposed benefits to Autonomous Colleges on the grant of Associate Membership of AIU.

Approved.

- 383/13 To consider and approve joining of AIU as founding partner GSUA.

Approved.

- 383/14 To consider and approve the request of SRH Fernhochschule - The Distance Learning University, Kirchstrasse 26, 88499 Riedlingen, Germany for terminating the Associate Membership of AIU with immediate effect.

The GC resolved to terminate Associate Membership of AIU of SRH Fernhochschule - The Distance Learning University, Kirchstrasse 26, 88499 Riedlingen, Germany with immediate effect.

- 383/15 To consider and approve the proposal for publication of a Special Issue of University News on a quarterly basis.

Approved.

- 383/16 To consider and approve the action plan for implementing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and Universities Australia (UA).

Approved.

- 383/17 To consider and approve the proposal for engaging a Social Media Agency for Branding and Promoting of activities of AIU.

Approved.

- 383/18 To consider the D.O letter dated 20th May 2025, received from Prof. S P Bansal, VC, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharmshala, H.P for inclusion of his tenure of 3 year, served as Vice Chancellors under additional charge of Himachal Pradesh University in AIU VCs Seniority list.

The GC authorized President, AIU to form a committee to consider the matter. The report of the committee may be presented before the GC.

- 383/19 To consider and approve the proposal for conducting the 'Centenary Celebration' of the Association, after the conduct of 99th AIU Annual Meet and National Conference of Vice Chancellors.

Approved.

- 383/20 To consider and approve the visit of Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, President, AIU and VC, CSJMU, Kanpur for attending the NAFSA Conference at USA, scheduled to be held during last week of May, 2025.

Approved.

- 383/21 To consider and approve the visit of Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU for being a keynote speaker during Japan-India Event on the theme "Unlocking India: Opportunities & Strategies for Japanese Universities", scheduled to be held at Tokyo on 20th May 2025, being organized by Acumen, Sannam S4 Group and co-hosted by the Embassy of India in Tokyo, Japan.

Approved.

- 383/22 To consider and approve the visit of Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU for being a Co-presenter on the session titled "Student and Intern Mobility Across Asia" during 13th Annual Global Internship Conference, scheduled to be held in Singapore during 25-26 June, 2025 and conducted by Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE).

Approved.

- 383/23 To consider and approve the 'Review and finalization of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Rules and Guidelines etc.' for AIU Zonal/National AIU UNIFESTs.

The GC resolved to approve the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Rules and Guidelines etc.' for AIU Zonal/National AIU UNIFESTs. It was

resolved to upload the SOP on the AIU Website. The GC also authorized President, AIU to take a final decision on the approval of the SOP.

- 383/24 To consider nomination on the Governing Council of the Association on the basis of Co-option by Governing Council, AIU in place of Prof. Neelima Gupta, VC, Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Sagar, M.P.

The Item was withdrawn in the light of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India D.O letter No.F.14-3/2024-U.3 dated 23rd June, 2025 for "Restructuring the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in alignment of the provisions of National Education Policy (NEP-2020" and constitution of high-powered Committee to review the functioning of AIU and to maintain 'status quo' till six month.

- 383/25 To report AIU's signing of MoU with AIMA, ICCE & Skilling You Launching of Skill Based Courses In collaboration with.

Approved.

- 383/26 To consider and approve the proposal for becoming Organizing Partner for the Startup Nation Olympiad 2025 and Collaboration for "Startup Nation Movement".

Approved.

- 383/27 To consider and approve the participation of AIU member university teams in International Cultural Festivals.

Approved.

- 383/28 To report introduction of Color Advertisements in the Special Issue of University News.

Approved.

- 383/29 To consider and approve the signing of MoU between AIU and Acumen (SannamS4 Group) for promoting partnership with Japanese Universities.

Approved.

- 383/30 To consider and approve the proposal and MoU received from M/s Studium Education and Research Private Limited (Studium) for a partnership with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), aimed at supporting rankings improvement, accreditation readiness, and data-driven academic planning for member universities.

Approved.

- 383/31 To consider and approve the proposal and MoU received from M/s TraceRT Services Private Limited (Trace) for a partnership with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) to automate the education verification process across member universities.

Approved.

- 383/32 To consider the report on participation by Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in NAFSA Annual Conference 2025.

Noted.

- 383/33 To consider and approve the proposal for signing MoU with Life and Startup Universe and becoming Organizing Partner for the Startup Nation Olympiad 2025 and Collaboration for "Startup Nation Movement".

The Item was withdrawn as item is already placed as Item No. 383/26.

- 383/34 To discuss the methodology to be adopted for enhancing the scope of AIU.

The Item was withdrawn in the light of receipt of letter from Ministry of Education, Govt. of India D.O letter No.F.14-3/2024-U.3 dated 23rd June, 2025 for "Restructuring the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in alignment of the provisions of National Education Policy (NEP-2020" and constitution of high-powered Committee to review the functioning of AIU.

- 383/35 To consider and approve the Publication of AIU Journal in different disciplines by entering into a Co-publishing Agreement with CALNESTOR Foundation, a Start-up under the Indian Institute of Science and Technology (IIST), Shibpur.

Approved.

- 383/36 To report withdrawal of AIU mandate given by MoE vide notification No. 15/17/94-TS.IV dated 13th March, 1995 for equivalence of foreign qualifications vide Dept of Higher Education, MoE, GoI letter No. 14-3/2024-U.3-Part(I) dated 5th May, 2025.

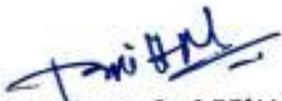
Noted.

383/37 To consider the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India D.O letter No.F.14-3/2024-U.3 dated 23rd June, 2025 for "Restructuring the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in alignment of the provisions of National Education Policy (NEP-2020)" and constitution of high-powered Committee to review the functioning of AIU.

The majority of the GC members accepted the letter of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India D.O letter No.F.14-3/2024-U.3 dated 23rd June, 2025 (Annexure 37.01) for "Restructuring the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in alignment of the provisions of National Education Policy (NEP-2020)" and constitution of high-powered Committee to review the functioning of AIU. In the light of the advice of the Ministry of Education to maintain 'status quo' till six months or any decision is taken on receipt of the report of the committee, whichever is earlier, the GC resolved that all the GC members including existing President, Vice President and Immediate Past President shall continue to be on the GC till six months or till any decision is taken on the report of the committee by the MoE, whichever is earlier, in the line with the legal opinion taken by the AIU in the matter.

However, Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa and Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar submitted their "Dissent" on the decision. The copy of the note of dissent submitted by Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa are enclosed.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair


[Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal]
Secretary General


[Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak]
President

Letter to General Council of AIU

To
The Members of the General Council
Association of Indian Universities

Subject: Adherence to Bye-laws in nomination of President and Vice-President of AIU & Context of the Recent Letter from the GoI - Ministry of Education regarding Restructuring of AIU

Esteemed Colleagues from the GC of AIU,

I am writing this letter as a Member of the GC, Vice-President of AIU and in the capacity of the next in-line (by seniority as per the registered bye-laws) to assume the office of President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

I wish to respectfully place the following points for the consideration of the General Council before any decision is taken that may contravene AIU bye-laws and the spirit of AIU autonomy:

1. Registered Bye-laws are Supreme: AIU is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act. Its internal governance—including the mode and term of electing its President—is governed solely by its registered bye-laws. These bye-laws clearly specify that the seniormost Vice Chancellor becomes the President for a term of one year.
2. Government Letter: Scope Limited to NEP 2020 Reforms and Equivalence: The letter received from the Government of India refers specifically to maintaining “status quo” of AIU in view of the proposed formation of HECI. This letter has nothing to do with the routine nominations of President and Vice-President of AIU, and their assuming charge as per Bye-Laws of AIU. There is no mention in that communication about altering the AIU Presidency term or any change in election procedure.
3. The mentioned Government office memo is not at all for amending Bye-laws of AIU. Any change in the bye-laws can only as per the procedure laid out in the Societies Registration Act and AIU bye-laws only. The Government’s letter has nothing to do with the existing bye-laws and the routine functioning of AIU.
4. Legal Opinion vs Registered Rules: Reportedly a legal opinion was sought that allegedly supports extension of the current President’s term. However, such an opinion cannot override or amend the registered bye-laws, nor is it binding on the General Council. The only binding framework is the registered rules of AIU.
5. Need for Institutional Integrity and Good Governance: As custodians of AIU’s independence and credibility, we have a collective responsibility to uphold transparent and

rule-based governance. Disregarding the clear bye-laws and extending a term without legal basis risks undermining AIU's standing as an impartial body representing Indian universities.

Therefore, I formally request the General Council to:

- Recognise that the Government's letter does not necessitate any change the bye-laws regarding election of the President.
- Adhere to the procedure in the bye-laws by appointing the seniormost Vice Chancellor as President for the new term.
- Avoid any decision that would set a damaging precedent of ignoring our registered rules in favour of external interpretations not supported bye-laws.

I request all members of the GC to uphold AIU's Bye-laws, democratic values, autonomy, and rule of law in this crucial matter.

Thank you for your attention and understanding.

Yours Sincerely,

Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai
Vice-President AIU &
Vice-Chancellor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai.

Note of Dissent for GC

We the undersigned members of General Council express our disappointment and anguish on the illegal postponement of GC and GB meeting on 22.06.2025 and 23.06.2025 arbitrarily by the President and subsequent replacement of Agenda for the designation of Prof. Pillai as the President of AIU and Prof. Faizan Mustafa as Vice-President as per the Bye-laws of AIU.

The President of AIU who has a tainted record and allegedly has cases against him has highjacked AIU and brought bad name to the good image of Central Govt.

Rule 21 of AIU Bye-laws very clearly says that the senior most member of Association shall be its President. He shall hold office for a period of one year corresponding to Academic year 1st July, to 30th June of next year. This Rule uses word 'shall' and not words 'may' or 'will'. Use of words shall means it is mandatory and it does not require any decision either by GC or by GB. Accordingly, Prof. Pillai by virtue of being the next senior most member of Association automatically becomes the President. Likewise Rule 23 says that the senior most member in terms of rotation after President would be designated as the Vice-President.

To continue in office beyond his term, Prof. Pathak without the approval of GC and AGM wrote a letter to the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India suggesting them **restructuring AIU in the context of new Education Policy. The legal opinion obtained by him again without any approval of GC and GB too mentions a false fact that this letter had an approval of GC and GB.** This clearly shows that Prof. Pathak has misled even the lawyer from whom he has sought an opinion in his own favour. **This one fact itself seriously erodes the credibility of Prof. Pathak and Secretary General of AIU who have scant regard for the Bye-laws governing AIU.** Since, the opinion is about the letter from Ministry of Education, let us examine this letter, the letter from Ministry of Education has following important features:

1. In the **subject itself it mentions restructuring of AIU in alignment with the provisions of NEP.** There is nothing in the provisions of NEP which in any way suggests any issue relating to governance of AIU or problems caused by AIU's structure. **Accordingly, the letter looks a colourable exercise of power by the Govt. at the behest of outgoing President Prof. Pathak.**
2. In the first paragraph of this letter the **Govt. has very clearly acknowledged that AIU was registered as a non-governmental organisation in 1967** under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It was originally established in 1925 as inter University Board. **This acknowledgment further reinforces the legal position and status of AIU as non-governmental organisation which is independent and autonomous in its functioning.**
3. In paragraph 2 of this letter the Govt. has stated that New Education Policy has a vision to transform **higher education eco-system, enhance autonomy and efficiency of various organisations like AIU.** The crucial word in this

paragraph is "autonomy". Unfortunately, the outgoing President of AIU is undermining and is bartering the autonomy of AIU just to continue in office for few more months. **In the New Education Policy, there is Chapter 10 entitled Institutional Restructuring and Consolidation at page 34 of New Education Policy. Point 10.1 of NEP says that the main thrust of the policy is to transform higher education institution into large multi-disciplinary universities and colleges so that we follow the rich tradition of ancient universities of Nalanda and Takshila. In Point NO. 10.12 NEP clearly says that the new regulatory system envisioned by this policy will foster overall culture of empowerment and autonomy and gradually phase out the system of affiliated colleges. There is nothing in NEP which has anything to do even remotely with the governance structure of AIU as AIU is neither a University nor a college but a body of Vice-Chancellors of both Government as well as Private Universities. The New Education Policy document has not used word Association of Indian Universities anywhere and therefore the whole story artificially concocted by the President to further his own vested interest has no legs to stand.**

4. In Point No. 3 of Govt. of India's letter dated 23.06.2025, the Government has said that **the equivalence of degrees will now be with the UGC Regulations, 2025. AIU's losing of this power is the biggest failure of the President and Secretary General and this in itself should be the reason for their removal by the GC and AGM.** The General Council and AGM are now been forced to extend the continuance of incompetent President and ineffective Secretary General for not able to protect the interest of AIU. **It seems the President had bartered AIU in lieu of extension of his term as President for few months.** Paragraph 4 very clearly mentions that it was AIU which has brought Govt. into picture through its letter dated 26.03.2025 and in spite of repeated requests both President and Secretary General have not so far even shared this letter with the GC and General Body.
5. In paragraph 5 of this letter from the Govt., Central Govt. has constituted a Committee to review the functioning of AIU and suggest its role in accordance with NEP, 2020. Paragraph 6 clearly states terms of reference which are following
 - (i) **Role of AIU with the vision of NEP, 2020**
 - (ii) **Role of AIU in present scenario considering the notification of UGC (Recognition and Grant of Equivalence to qualifications obtained from foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2025.**
6. It is clear from this term of reference that the AIU as of now does not have any power of equivalence and the Committee will consider whether or not AIU is to be given any role in the equivalence of degrees. **The term of reference nowhere mentions restructuring of AIU governance structure and therefore the whole argument of President and his arbitrarily chosen lawyer has no meaning whatsoever as the Committee is not going to examine whether**

AIU will have a President or a Vice-President. Nothing about the governance of AIU is before this Committee.

7. In paragraph 7, the Govt. has said that AIU is **advised** "to maintain status quo till six months. **The crucial term is advised not AIU is directed to do anything. There is no directive from the Govt. that the AIU should no more follow its Bye-laws.** As a matter of fact the aforesaid letter merely informs AIU that it will have no power whatsoever in terms of equivalence of degrees or implementation of NEP. Other than these two, AIU may continue to operate as per its Bye-laws.

In view of the above facts, the interpretation of this letter given by the President and the legal opinion arbitrarily sought by him has no meaning in law and this letter and the legal opinion are basically aimed at the colourable exercise of power to allow Prof. Pathak to illegally continue as President of AIU.

We the undersigned members of the GC and the General Body strongly express our dissent with the legal opinion obtained by Prof. Pathak and oppose the decision of the GC in endorsing the illegal continuation of Prof. Pathak as the President, AIU. We urge GC and the Govt. of India to honour the rule of law and honour the 100 years old tradition of AIU under which the designation of Vice-President as President is automatic and routine. This designation is not in any way in the teeth of Govt. of India's letter dated 23.06.2025.

To study the implications of Govt's letter, a committee of five senior most members of the GC may be constituted to deal with the committee. These five senior most members may also meet the officers of Govt and Hon'ble Education Minister.

Faizan Mustafa