

**MINUTES OF THE
FORTY SEVENTH (47TH) MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HELD ON THURSDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY 2021**

The Forty Seventh (47th) meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on Thursday, 18th February, 2021 at 3.00 pm at College of Engineering Pune and the following members were present.

1.	Shri. Pratap Pawar	Chairman (in VC mode)
2.	Mr. O. P. Gupta	Secretary Dept. of H & TE, Govt. Representative (in VC mode)
3.	Shri. Sanjay Inamdar	Member (in VC mode)
4.	Prof. Sanjay Dhande	Member (in VC mode)
5.	Dr. Pramod Chaudhari	Member (in VC mode)
6.	Dr. Anand Deshpande	Member
7.	Prof. Mrs. P. P. Rege	Member
8.	Prof. S. T. Vagge	Member
9.	Prof. N.B. Pasalkar	Invitee
10.	Prof. M.S. Sutaone	Invitee
11.	Prof. B. G. Birajdar	Invitee
12.	Prof. B. B. Ahuja	Member- Secretary

Prof. Nitin Kalmalkar, VC of the Savitribai Phule Pune University could not attend the meeting owing to sudden engagement at the University and was granted leave of absence. Members were allowed to join in the VC mode prior to the commencement of the meeting. Owing to the Covid-19 situation, few members, as mentioned against their names above, preferred to join the meeting in VC mode and thus the Chairman confirmed from all such members whether the proceedings, being transacted, were audible and visible and that they were seated alone in the room, and after their confirmation the meeting was called to order. At the outset the Chairman warmly welcomed all the members.

Item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 46th meeting of BOG held on Tuesday, 15th December 2020.

The draft minutes of the 46th meeting of the Board of Governors held on 15th December 2020, as were circulated to the members, were also tabled during the meeting and since no comments were received from any member, the same were approved.

R-47/1/2020: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the minutes of the 46th meeting of the Board of the Institute held on 15th December 2020.

Item 2: Action taken on the minutes of the 46th meeting of BOG held on 15th December 2020.

The Director apprised the members on the action taken on the Resolutions of the 46th Meeting of BOG.

The Board noted the actions taken on various resolutions/decisions in the 46th Board meeting.

While on this item Prof B.B Ahuja-the Director, mentioned about the up-gradation of Drawing Hall and Establishment of Research laboratory in Department of Civil Engg., sponsored by VASCON India Ltd, Metallurgy

workshop, House of Clubs, NCC Building and informed that, as regards this renovation work, the architects have requested for a revision in the fee structure considering the liaison work involved to get the fire NOC and other such clearances required from authorities, to complete this work, to the tune of 4% of the project cost.

R-47/2-a/2020: The Board **NOTED and APPROVED** the actions taken on the decisions/resolutions of the 46th meeting of the Board held on **15th December 2020** as apprised by the Director.

R-47/2-b/2020: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** 4% of the project cost as architect fees to the architectural firm M/S CCBA Designs Pvt. Ltd., Pune, towards for overall renovation/restoration works mentioned above.

Item 3:

A Presentation on, “Novel Infrastructure Development on Chikhali Plot, Metallurgy workshop, House of Clubs, Mechanical Engineering, Drawing Hall by the Architectural Firm-M/S CCBA”:

The Director updated the members that Government of Maharashtra has allotted 11.3 Hectares of land at Chikhali, in PCMC, to COEP. To avoid encroachment, the compound wall with Main Gate has already been initiated and on the verge of completion. As per the guidance of Honorable Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra, establishment of Centers of Excellence in Sunrise areas of Technology, hosting state of the art novel interdisciplinary PG and research programs, with Industry supported research is the primary goal in developing this second campus of COEP, he added. He updated that the phase-wise infrastructure development has been proposed, with multipurpose structures with modern equipment, teaching-learning and research facility, spread on the Built-up Area of around 1,05,000 sq.ft. Out of Rs. 150 Crores, as promised by the Government of Maharashtra, Rs. 25 Crores for this project are being made available by the Govt. of Maharashtra, as a seed (first) installment. On behalf of all the stakeholders of the Institute, the Director thanked Mr. Pratap Pawar and Shri O. P. Gupta Hon. Secretary-Dept. of H&TE, for all their efforts and consistent support, in particular, to get funds for COEP's Chikhali campus from the State Government.

The team from architectural firm-CCBA presented the building plan of the proposed Centers of Excellence and described that a flexible fabric for 'G+ 6' construction of the CoEs, has been conceived, with the permissions for pedestrians only to move around on ample walkways and sufficient parking space on the boundaries of the land. Upon queried by Dr. Pasalkar on any planning for hostels on this campus, the firm representatives affirmed the same as having a plan for 'G+ 16' constructions for hostels. Though the Government has committed the initial funding of Rs. 150 Crores, in phases, for raising such magnificent and gigantic infrastructure, the Chairman expressed his concern for hunting the prospective donors, philanthropist and alumni for raising the additional funds in this regard. Shri O. P. Gupta, Hon. Secretary- H & TE department, Govt. of Maharashtra, wished all the success to the Institute for accomplishment of Chikhali campus and assured the Government's support in future also. Upon his expectation on Chikhali campus being unique and demonstrable to the Society, the Chairman heartily thanked Shri O. P. Gupta for his kind words and pleasant gesture.

The Director said that the firm-CCBA has offered its services, on pro-bono basis, for the complete master plan of the Chikhali site, based on their long-term association with COEP since 2006, and further described the

credentials of the firm in terms of their rich design experience and expertise in creating building plans for academic institutes and successfully completed projects. For COEP, the services extended by the Firm have been noteworthy and found diligent and unique of its kind, he added.

Whereas, the Firm charged the professional fees for its older projects on COEP campus at 4% of project cost, for the Chikhali project, it has consented to provide total architectural services, with service charges of 2.5% of the project cost, owing to the long-standing and revered association, the Director updated the members.

After listening to the presentation, the Board decided as follows:

R-47/3/2021: The Board **RESOLVED** to APPROVE the professional fees to be paid to the architectural firm-CCBA Designs Pvt. Ltd., Pune at the rate of 2.5% of the project cost for the Chikhali project for the total architectural services of the said project.

The Board **FURTHER RESOLVED** to authorize the Director in the said matter for payment of advance of fees to the architects at appropriate time in stages."

Item 4:

A Presentation on "Recommendations of Prof. Dhande Empowered Committee (as in its submitted Report: Part-I) towards Solutions for long-pending Faculty issues at COEP":

The Director briefed the members on the recruitment rounds conducted for appointing REGULAR teachers on both, Govt. sanctioned & supported vacant posts, and Institute's own created positions (post Autonomy), during 2007 to 2012, as per empowerment vested in Autonomy GRs of 2002 and 2004. Though the sixth pay fixations of all such teachers appointed on Govt. sanctioned & supported posts were approved by the Government, in 2010-11, due to some petitions filed by Gazetted Engineering Teachers Association, thereafter, in Hon. High Court, Mumbai, the Government appointed Meshram Committee to critically review all these teachers' appointments, in year 2013 and which vide its report, categorized a few appointments as "NOT ELIGIBLE" while remaining as "ELIGIBLE", he added. Based on this report, the Government released its decisive letter dated 23rd January 2015, ordering the termination of all those teachers whose appointments were categorized as 'NOT ELIGIBLE'. This order invited unfortunate series of petitions in Hon. High Court, Mumbai and thereafter in Hon. Supreme Court of India, by the aggrieved teachers and Institute responded to the situation, since the Board firmly believed in its due diligence followed in the process of recruitment rounds, the Director further updated.

He further informed that a letter from the Government, as late as in 2018, that suspended the salary disbursement from the Government treasury (w.e.f June 2018) for all teachers appointed by the Board on Government positions (owing to the said cause of 'Improper Head of Salary disbursement'), added further to the complexity of the situation, and resulted into tremendous unrest in the concerned teachers, since their salary related deductions such as GPF, GIS, DCPS etc., were also put on hold and thus not deposited with the respective accounts of the Government.



The Board and the Institute were and are of the opinion that if the few important commitments in the GRs of 2002 & 2004, namely:

1. **Block Grant**
2. **Teachers' and Staff Options to serve as 'COEP Society Employee'**
3. **Uniform Service Rules for all employees** on campus of COEP as a Government-owned but Society governed Autonomous Institute, the situation today would not have arisen, he said.

He apprised further that the Hon. Minister of Higher & Technical Education, taking serious stock of the situation and almost a decade-pending faculty issues, appointed an empowered Committee led by Prof. Sanjay Dhande-Former Director-IIT Kanpur, in February-2020, with Prof. N. B. Pasalkar-Former DTE-M.S., Prof. B. B. Ahuja-Director COEP, as members and also the Deputy Secretary- H & TE department, the Director-MSBTE, as Government representatives on the Committee, with Dr. Abhay Wagh- the DTE of the State, as Member Secretary of the Committee. The Committee, which was mandated to make recommendations on long-pending faculty issues and suggesting an immediate Vision-plan for granting Tech-University status to COEP, submitted the 'Part-I' of its report in November-2020. The report comprises of its inclusive recommendations towards immediate actions and solutions to the faculty issues. The Director also informed the members about follow-up meetings with 1. Hon. Minister-H & TE on 9th December 2020, to review the progress of deliberations between the Government and the Institute and 2. Hon. Secretary-H & TE department, dated 29th December 2020, with the Chairman of the Board-Shri Pratap Pawar, Prof. Pasalkar, Institute functionaries and the DTE-Dr. Wagh. Hon. Secretary assured to solve the issues, inclusively, in a time-bound manner, by prioritizing them. Accordingly, it was consented in the meeting to work on the 'Block Grant' issue immediately, followed by the others. Institute has submitted its "Block Grant details-Version 1.0" to the Directorate of Technical Education through proper channel, the Director mentioned.

A presentation, based on Prof. Dhande committee's report (Part-I), in general, and the Block Grant details, in particular, was made, in the meeting.

Board considered and noted the same.

R-47/4/2021: The Board **RESOLVED** to APPROVE the proposal of "Block Grant" prepared by the Institute and submitted to the Directorate of Technical Education through proper channel. The Board also instructed the Institute administration to rigorously follow-up with the Government for favorable and immediate actions in this regard.

Item 5: **A report on Recent Initiatives for Enhancing Research through Industry associations of COEP:**

The Director remarked that COEP is known for its best industry linkages for mutually beneficial relations from decades together and leveraging on the location advantage of being in the city of Pune, the alumni of the Institute at influential positions in the domain-specific industry/corporate/enterprises and the eternal Brand of the Institute, no stone is left unturned to nurture these associations and take them to the next level. The list of industry

partners/associates is updated every, now and then to drive and mutually derive all possible fruits from such collaborations, he said.

With the action-oriented Vision of the Chairman-Shri Pratap Pawar, the Board's sub-committee working under the guidance of Dr. Pramod Chaudhari and Shri Sanjay Inamdar, a novel Vision and Action Plan has been articulated to strengthen the Industry associations, the Director informed.

Further he reported that, post the 46th meeting of the Board, following associations have been initiated by the respective Departments or Dean-R & D office.

1. Vasant Dada Sugar Research Institute:

Tentative Areas for collaboration:

- Electricity Cogeneration
- Biofuels
- Vibration and noise analysis
- Automation & Instrumentation
- Indoor air quality
- Policy making
- Risk assessment
- EIA

2. Nach Industries, Bhosari, Pune:

Following areas have been identified for collaboration:

- Coil winding machine development: Electrical and Manufacturing Process & Industrial Management Department
- Filter diagnostic studies, with Instrumentation and Electrical Engg. departments

3. Endress and Houser, Aurangabad:

- Develop products through students internship of Instrumentation and Control Engineering Department.

4. Crompton Greaves Aurangabad:

- Development of coil for starter: Electrical Engineering Department

5. M/S Mac DermidAlpha, an advanced Electronics manufacturing company, led by Dr. Ravi Bhatkal-COEP's Alumni of 1988 batch, has committed to set-up an "Advanced Electronics Manufacturing Centre" at E & TC department, with the seed investment of Rs. 80 lakhs, and with the vision of creating trained manpower in the futuristic area of semiconductor chip manufacturing in India. He has committed Rs. 40 lakhs before 31st March 2021.

6. As per newly decided policy of "One faculty One industry" to be executed in every department, around 96 faculty members from departments of Mechanical, Electrical, E & TC, Computer Engg., Manufacturing Engg., have identified their respective industry partners and have submitted the activities and engagements with their industry associates. Others are being encouraged to partner with the allied industry.

7. As suggested by Prof. Pasalkar in the last meeting and further endorsed by the Chairman, Institute has approached MCCIA, with an appeal to

expand connects of COEP, with the huge number and spectrum of member industries of MCCIA, with a focused agenda for collaborations.

8. Institute has also been encouraged by the Chairman-Shri Pratap Pawar, to become members of various Industry professional bodies as MCCIA, CII, FICCI, ACMA, Alucast among others, he also stressed that every department must initiate one or more institutional memberships to leverage industry practices and current trends of technology breakthroughs.

The Board deliberated on this and guided as follows for the further course of action:

- i) Prof. Dhande insisted on the need for recruitment of full time research staff on contract or permanent basis for the Institute. He expressed the need to establish a Research & Development ecosystem based on the following five elements:
 - Potentially strong research ideas that deserve immediate initiation of for work be taken up immediately.
 - Human resource with updated technical knowledge be recruited to attend the new equipment purchased by the Institute.
 - Separate funds for management, administration and enablement of research projects be provided by the Board, from Institute resources.
 - Sponsored research wherein funding is provided by the external agencies/organizations/industry be promoted, with incentives to the concerned group of faculty and students.
 - Financial incentives as seed funding from the Board for such R & D projects
 - PG education be strengthened and concerned students be facilitated so as to develop the research back bone of the Institute.
- ii) Mr. Sanjay Inamdar suggested inculcating the culture of the "Applied-Interdisciplinary" research and innovation in students and faculty of the Institute and expanding the canvas beyond city of Pune. He further suggested organizing hands-on trainings by the suppliers of high-end equipment, post its installation and commissioning for faculty, students and technical staff. This would ensure the optimum and effective utilization of the costly set-up, also its timely maintenance and upkeep, he added. He also advised on strengthening the University programs announced by domain-specific industries/corporate houses., he added.
- iii) The Chairman mentioned the association of COEP with the organization 'Alucast', on which the Director informed that the institutional membership with 'Alucast' has been initiated.
- iv) The Director also informed the members about Dean-R & D's meeting with all the PhD guides of the Institute, a fortnight ago, wherein they have been apprised of the new R & D Vision, initiatives, practices, systems on campus. He further informed that with the courtesy of Dr. Anand Deshpande, a meeting of COEP's functionaries has been organized with MSMEs under the umbrella of MCCIA.

The Chairman remarked that the 'R & D' on campus is serious business and instructed the Director and concerned Institute functionaries to evolve with a blue print of R& D activities, budgetary provision for the same and targets be worked upon accordingly. He further remarked that Institute should engage with Board members and seek their help to connect COEP to industry for sponsored projects.

R-47/5-a/2021: The Board **RESOLVED** to APPROVE the support every department for domain specific institutional Membership of Professional Bodies

R-47/5-b/2021: The Board **RESOLVED** to APPROVE for setting up of Center for "Advanced Electronic Manufacturing and Skills Development", sponsored by MacDermid Alpha.

R-47/5-c/2021: The Board **RESOLVED** to APPROVE to empower the Director to recruit research assistants /research associates, for 3-5 years period, on case to case basis, depending on research project in hand and need of the department.

Item 6:

Permissions/Approvals on assorted issues as follows:

- **Procurement of Collaborative Robot for new 'Robotics & Automation Laboratory' in Department of Manufacturing Engineering & Industrial Management :**

The Director informed that the "M.Tech-AI & Robotics" course has commenced in this academic year 2020-21, and the lab courses incorporated in the curriculum require the following:

Sr. No.	Name of the Equipment	Cost in Lakhs (Rs.)
1.	Collaborative Robot	22,50,000/-
2.	Electric / Pneumatic Gripper	03,50,000/-
Total		26,00,000/-

The procurement is proposed from the additional funds to be made available under project TEQIP-III/CoEs, he said and though the Director has already approved the purchase, a statutory approval is necessitated by TEQIP-III from the Board also. In case funds are not available in TEQIP, the same will be processed through institute funds.

Board noted and approved the procurement post effect.

- **Mr. Vijay M. Khadse, Assistant Professor in Computer Engineering & IT for Study Leave of SIX months: -**

The Director informed that Mr. Vijay M. Khadse, Assistant Professor in Computer Engineering & IT, is pursuing PhD at Smt. Kashibai Navale College of Engineering Research Centre Pune with Dr. Parikshit Mahalle from the same Institute, as his supervisor, on the topic is "Algorithms for Data Analytics using Machine Learning in Internet of Things (IoT)". He registered for his PhD in January-2018, and over the span of last four years, has regularly and satisfactorily defended and submitted his research progress, with decent publications to his credit, he added. Mr. Khadse is on the verge of concluding his work towards submission of synopsis, followed by thesis and has requested a study leave for the purpose, from 1st February 2021 to 31st July 2021, to focus on research work.



As per encouraging policies of the Institute As empowered in the 40th Board meeting, Director has already permitted Mr. Khadse to avail the leave for a semester to complete his PhD work.

While on this discussion, Prof. Pasalkar opined that the COEP faculty members should be encouraged to pursue their research and PhD at the reputed Institutes in the country, higher in rank than COEP (IITs or good NITs), if not, at least, they should register for in-house research programs, he added.

Board considered and ratified the same.

- **Donation of written-off desktops/laptops to the needy students for Skill development programs, in the villages adopted under UBA/UMA:**

The Director informed that the Institute has its active participation in the Govt. of India and Maharashtra social initiative such as Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan (UBA) and Unnat Maharashtra Abhiyaan (UMA). Teacher/student teams from across various departments are engaged in executing socially relevant technology-centric projects in the nearby adopted villages. The in-house committee of UBA/UMA faculty members, vide its minutes of meeting, held on 4th September 2020, has requested for grant of permission 20-30 written-off desktop/laptop computers towards conduct of some skill development programs for the needy children/population, he added and further apprised that the written-off machines are obsolete dead-stock items with negligible prices, if bought/sold and with this donation the machines in working condition will be put to use for a social cause, where young unemployed youth will be trained on "Computer Networking, Maintenance & trouble shooting courses assembling PCs" etc.

The members appreciated the donation of written-off desktops/laptops and advised to follow complete transparency in the process, said that

R-47/6-a/2021: The Board NOTED and RESOLVED to APPROVE the procurement of Collaborative Robot for new Robotics and Automation Laboratory.

R-47/6-b/2021: The Board NOTED and RESOLVED to APPROVE the distribution of the written-off Desktop / Laptops to empower village youth by providing training on Computer Networking, Maintenance & trouble shooting courses assembling PCs, etc.

R-47/6-c/2021: The Board NOTED and RESOLVED to APPROVE the study leave of six months to Mr. Vijay M. Khadse.

Item 7: Items for REPORTING to the Board

- Prof. B. B. Ahuja has been nominated as a member of the "General Council" of National Board of Accreditation (NBA), New Delhi for tenure of three years with effect from February 2021.
- M/S Saitej Life Training Institute has shared its announcement (Information brochure) for conducting 3-days motivational and residential training program on "Developing Positive Attitude towards Institutional and Individual work and Life" organized at Lonavala on 19th-21st Feb 2021 and 26th-28th Feb. 2021, in particular for Class-IV staff in academic organizations. Two batches, each of 35 class-IV staff from across various departments of COEP, are being

nominated for this training, with the expenditure being booked from the appropriate funds of TEQIP-III/CoEs.

While on this item, the Chairman appreciated the initiative, in particular, for support staff, and remarked that the motivational/skill upgradation training programs may be arranged with a pre-decided calendar and for a stipulated duration, a budgetary provision also be made from Institute resources, after TEQIP funds are exhausted.

- **MoUs with Academia/Industry:**

List of MoUs with Academia/Industry signed after the last meeting was circulated along with the agenda.

Board took note of the same.

R-47/7-a/2021: The Board RESOLVED to APPROVE the 3-days motivational and residential training program to be conducted by M/S Saitej Life Training Institute at Loanavala through funding support from project TEQIP. The Board further RESOLVED to empower the Director to organize such training program for Faculty and Support Staff with provision of budgetary expenditure every year.

R-47/7-a/2021: The Board NOTED all the reported items under Item no. 7.

Any other item with the permission of the Chair

The following Additional Agenda items were taken up with the permission of Chairman

Item 8: Ratification on the Approvals given by the Hon. Chairman for various major purchases/renewal-of-subscription proposals:

a) Approval for placing the Work Order for Installing, Testing, commissioning, other related work and Comprehensive maintenance contract for ELEVATORS at various departments of the Institute:-

The Director informed that the academic Institutes of Higher learning are mandated by regulatory authorities like AICTE & UGC to create and maintain the infrastructure facilities on campus that prove ENABLING for specially-abled class of students, faculty and also other old-aged stakeholders on campus and visitors. Construction of ramps, as an access to the buildings (wherever possible) and elevators are the usual facilities that are raised to help such population. He further updated that in recent years, some new construction has been accomplished across various departments in the Institute that need installation of elevators, due to multiple floors in such buildings, whereas, Departments of Civil Engineering and Instrumentation, HV Lab at Electrical Engineering Department and Bajaj Mechanical School have requested for elevators to installed, in their relatively older buildings. The installation and commissioning of these elevators must also be associated with unit-wise comprehensive maintenance contract-(CMC), he said.

He further mentioned that the total process of identifying make and model, inviting quotations on Govt. of Maharashtra e-portal, preparing comparative and then placing work orders for the required quantity of elevators, with the lowest-quoted supplier, along with unit-wise comprehensive maintenance contract, has been carried out diligently, as per Institute's purchase procedures, and the best negotiated cost of total FOUR elevators, with FIVE years comprehensive

maintenance contract, for each of them, is Rs. 64, 96, 000/- (Rs. Sixty Four Lakhs and Ninety Thousand Only).

Hon. Chairman has already approved the purchase cost for the above-mentioned four elevators; he added and sought the ratification of the Board on the same.

Board considered and ratified the purchase for the said elevators, which will come along with Five-years comprehensive contract.

R-47/8a/2021: The Board NOTED and RESOLVED to APPROVE the purchase cost for the above-mentioned four elevators being Rs. 64, 96, 000/- (Rs. Sixty Four Lakhs and Ninety Thousand Only)."

b) Approval for placing the Work Order for 'Total Solution regarding Electrical Maintenance and New Electrification/ Installation Work' for Institute and Hostel Campus of COEP:

The Director informed that in order to look after the routine electrical maintenance work in Institute as well as hostel campus of the Institute, the job is entrusted to external agency. This include the periodic maintenance of the two sub-stations; one in the academic campus and the other in hostel campus of COEP including dry type transformers, circuit breakers, H.T., L.T. and APFC Panels, diesel generator sets, synchronization panels, back-up supply, electrical distribution, fault diagnosis in all the buildings etc. Also, with growing academic and research activities in all the departments across the institute, there are continuous demands for refurbishment and creation of new state-of-the art facilities, for which new electrification work is required. Electrical Works Committee (EWC) of the institute looks after supervision, streamlining all these electrical related works in both the campuses of COEP. A contract is awarded to the external electrical agency as per institute norms for a stipulated fixed period.

He further updated that the relevant Bids were invited through e-Tender process of Govt. of Maharashtra (MAHATENDER) on 13.08.2020 for both Schedule-A (supplying required manpower and routine maintenance) and Schedule-B (carrying out new electrification work with supply and labor rates of items mentioned in the tender document). Separate tenders were floated for Institute campus and hostel campus. The total process has been carried out diligently, as per Institute's purchase procedures.

The Director further informed that, after evaluation of the bids, M/s Purandhar Electrical Consultants and Contractors was found to be the lowest in the cost of Schedule-A and Schedule-B. After negotiations, the agency agreed to offer 5 % discount on every bill raised during the contract period. The final amount for Schedule-A for institute and hostel entities shall be Rs. 21, 30, 327/- and Rs. 20,44, 352/- respectively with GST as applicable, for contract period of 14 months with effect from 01.02.2021 to 31.03.2022. Discount of 5% shall also be extended by the agency for Schedule-B works approved by EWC on the rates mentioned in the bid document for the entire period of contract mentioned above. The previous experience of the agency has been satisfactory.

Hon. Chairman has already approved the re-issuing of the said work-order at the price mentioned above, he said and sought the ratification of the Board on the same.

Board considered and ratified the same.



R-47/8b/2021: The Board NOTED and RESOLVED to APPROVE and RATIFY the issue of work order to M/s Purandhar Electrical Consultants and Contractors for 'Total Solution regarding Electrical Maintenance and New Electrification/ Installation Work' for Institute and Hostel Campus of COEP for both Schedule-A (supplying required manpower and routine maintenance) and Schedule-B (carrying out new electrification work with supply and labor rates of items mentioned in the tender document) work at a final amount calculated after a discount of 5% on the rates mentioned in the bid document, for a period of contract of 14 months with effect from 01.02.2021 to 31.03.2022, renewable thereafter on year to year basis on same terms and conditions for next four years.

c) Approval for renewal of e-journals & databases under e-resources grant for 2021, Central Library, COEP:

The Director informed that the E-Shodh-Sindhu Consortium for Higher Education Electronics Resources of INFLIBNET have provided negotiated and pre-approved subscription rates for various citation databases, for peer reviewed literature, journals, books and conference proceedings, through a memorandum of understanding with AICTE.

There are a total of 10 packages of e-journals such as ACM, ASME, ACSE etc., 02 database packages, namely Scopus and Web-of-Science and 01 software package, namely Turnitin for Anti-plagiarism check. The grand total negotiated price of all these packages, taken together, by E-Shodh-sindhu (ESS) consortium is Rs. 1,63,42,083/- Hon. Chairman has already given approval for re-subscribing to and annual renewal of subscriptions for the packages, at pre-approved rates of E-Shodh-Sindhu Consortium from e-resources budget grant for Central Library of COEP for the year 2021, beginning January 1st 2021, he informed.

Board considered and ratified the re-subscription & renewal.

R-47/8c/2021: The Board NOTED and RESOLVED to APPROVE and RATIFY the renewal of e-journals & databases under e-resources grant for 2021 for the Central Library, COEP, at a cost of Rs. 1,63,42,083/- .

d) Approval for the Bulk Purchase of Surface (Touch Screen) Laptops for all regular Full-time Teachers on campus:

The Director informed that in light of the unprecedented situation of Pandemic, the Institute has proceeded to conduct the whole of its 'Teaching-Learning-Assessment' for the odd term of AY2019-20 and the whole AY-2020-21, in ONLINE mode. In this context, the ICT infrastructure/resources on campus and at the individual teacher's end need to be upgraded in terms of increased internet bandwidth, server configurations, online delivery/streaming platforms, capture devices such as high-resolution cameras, headsets and microphones etc. Though the requirement for such up-gradation/new procurement is situational, it would continue to facilitate the teachers and learner even after pandemic converges, he said.

There has been an empowering policy of the Board of the Institute, to equip every fulltime teacher on campus with the state-of-art desktop computer or a laptop, with wired or wi-fi internet connection when on campus. When the pandemic situation compels the teachers to work from home for their teaching in ONLINE mode, it is desirable to propose procuring the laptops, in bulk, for all the teachers.

When explored, the latest surface (touch screen) model of laptops with state-of-art configuration in terms of processor, RAM and HDD etc., has been short listed by the Institute's purchase team, since such model enables writing on the screen with stylus and almost emulates Board and chalk delivery mode. The best negotiated cost per piece is Rs. 74, 930/- inclusive of taxes and thus for all 206 numbers of laptops, the purchase cost comes out to be Rs. 1, 54,35, 580/-. An additional '55' numbers of laptops are being procured as a replacement for buy-back of older and obsolete laptops with the faculty, after completion of 'write-off' process for the same. Similarly for strengthening the wi-fi network across the Institute and hostel campus, the branded Access points need to be installed at various identified locations. The best negotiated cost, inclusive of all taxes, for the 92 numbers of access points is Rs.20, 60,800/-.

Hon. Chairman has already approved the purchase cost for the above-mentioned equipment.

Board was requested to consider and ratify the purchase of the said equipment-

R-47/8d/2021: The Board NOTED and RESOLVED to APPROVE and RATIFY the Bulk Purchase of 261 Surface (Touch Screen) Laptops for all regular Full-time Teachers on campus, (of which 55 Laptops are on buy-back basis), at the purchase cost of Rs. 1,54,35,580/- for first lot of 206 Laptops.

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

(B. B. Ahuja)
Member Secretary