



राष्ट्रीय औषधीय शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research
सैक्टर-67, एस. ए. एस. नगर(मोहाली), पंजाब – 160062
Sector-67, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Punjab -160062

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MINUTES OF THE 84TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOARD) HELD ON 07TH JUNE, 2024 (FRIDAY) AT NIPER, S.A.S. NAGAR (MOHALI)

Present physically :-

1. Dr. Girish Sahni, Former Director General, CSIR and Chairperson, BoG, NIPER, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali). Chairperson
2. Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary, Sr Economic Advisor & Acting Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, MoCF, New Delhi. Member
3. Prof. Dulal Panda, Director, NIPER, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) Member
4. Prof. Arvind Kumar Bansal, NIPER, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) Member
5. Prof. Ipsita Roy, NIPER, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) Member
6. Sh. Darshan Singh Sidhu, Additional Director representing Secretary, Technical Education, Govt. of Punjab. Member
7. Wing Cdr PJP Singh Waraich (Retd.), Registrar, NIPER, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) Secretary

Present virtually :-


8. Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Scientist G, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Hqs., New Delhi Member
9. Prof. Bikash Medhi, Department of Pharmacology, PGIMER Member
10. Mr. Ranga Chandrasekhar, Deputy Drugs Controller (India), CDSCO, Sub Zonal Office, Baddi representing DCGI, MoHFW Member

The Registrar & Secretary, Board of Governors (BoG), NIPER, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) on his own behalf and on behalf of the Institute welcomed the Chairperson and Members, BoG to the 84th Board Meeting. He informed that requests for leave of absence have been received from Prof. R.S. Verma, Director, MNNIT, Allahabad, Prayagraj & Dr. Rajesh Jain, MD, Panacea Biotec and although Dr. T. Rajamannar, Executive Vice President, Sun Pharma Advanced Research Company Ltd confirmed attending the meeting virtually, however, could not attend the meeting. The Board noted the information as reported.

Thereafter, the agenda was taken up and a point-wise record of deliberations is contained in the following paragraphs:

- 84.1 To confirm the minutes of the 83rd Board of Governors (BoG) meeting held on 15th December, 2023.

The Board unanimously resolved that the minutes of the 83rd Board of Governors (BoG) meeting held on 15th December 2023 be confirmed.

The Board approved uploading the minutes of its 83rd meeting on the Institute's website. 

- 84.2 To report the action taken on the minutes and confirm the minutes of the 83rd Board of Governors (BoG) meeting held on 15th December 2023.

The Board noted the information w.r.t. action taken by the Institute on its directions and provided specific observations/directions on the following agenda items/action taken report, which are enumerated hereunder:

1. Agenda item No. 83 w.r.t. presentation of showcasing the Institute's achievements by the Director of the Institute.

The Director of the Institute made a presentation explaining the initiatives taken/under process for showcasing the Institute's achievements and developing further collaborations with national and international industry and academia.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary said the Institute should have a concrete media plan for showcasing its achievements. Dr. Meenakshi Sharma remarked that the completed and ongoing drug discovery and development research programs of the Institute should prominently be visible in the media. The Chairperson emphasized that the Institute may avail the services of a professional agency for reaching out to the pharmaceutical fraternity, and the general public to create a better perception of the Institute.

The Board appreciated the steps taken by the Institute. Further, the august body advised the Institute to develop standard operating procedures for showcasing events, circulate the documents to Board Members for advice, and ensure implementation of them in a time-bound manner.

2. Agenda Item no. 83.2.1 concerning allowing faculty members, staff, and students to form a Startup/legal entity/Company and Incubate at the Institute Incubation Center

The Board appreciated that it's a significant achievement and a lot of hard work has been put in. The Board noted that the space has been identified and earmarked for the Incubation Centre, the first phase of which will be ready by 31st August 2024, besides other actions. The Institute has also drafted 'Guidelines to allow the faculty

members staff and students to form Startup/Legal Entity/Company and incubate at Institute Incubation Centre'

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The Board was pleased to note that the Institute shall be making a new beginning in developing the entrepreneurial culture amongst the staff and students and advised the Institute to explore the possibility of collaboration with local academic Institutes.

After threadbare deliberations, the Board approved the proposed policy document on 'Guidelines to allow the faculty members staff and students to form Startup/Legal Entity/Company and incubate at Institute Incubation Centre'.

3. Agenda Item No. 83.2.2 regarding the increase of the maternity leave period for female Ph.D. scholars from present 90 days with fellowship (as in NIPER, S.A.S. Nagar) to 180 days with fellowship (as in all Central Govt. Offices/Agencies).

The Board noted that the matter has been taken up with the Nodal Ministry for the suitable amendment (s) in the Ordinances.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary stated that since the agenda has pan NIPER implications, the matter may be placed before the NIPER Council for formulating a uniform policy. The Board agreed with the observations of Shri Choudhary.

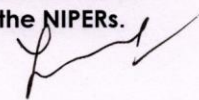
4. Agenda Item No. 83.2.3 regarding Amendment in Clause 33 (b) (i) and (ii) of the Ordinances about dispensing with evaluation of Thesis of Ph.D. student by foreign examiners.

Same as deliberated on agenda item No. 83.2.2.

5. Agenda Item No. 83.2.4 regarding modification in format for the Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR) for the faculty of the Institute.

The Board noted that the Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR) format and decision of the Board have been notified to the faculty members of the Institute.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary opined that performance evaluation is directly associated with the career progression of the faculty members. Hence, it needs to be uniform for all the NIPERs. He further remarked that the APAR format developed by the Institute may be a guiding principle for other NIPERs and the NIPER Council should develop a uniform APAR format for all the NIPERs.



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The Board while endorsing the views of Shri Choudhary directed that the Institute should follow the APAR that it developed painstakingly till the council develops a uniform APAR format.

6. Agenda Item No. 83.2.5 regarding Institutional product-oriented project monitoring and functioning mechanism.

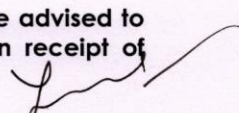
The APDC and BoG in earlier meetings directed the Institute to develop product-oriented projects. The Board noted that 13 project proposals from the faculty/Principal Investigators (PIs) were received and evaluated by the Committee (s) consisting of its nominee (s) and external experts (Biological, Chemical, and Pharmaceutical sciences), which advised the PIs to revise the proposals, as per the experts' comments, within a month.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary inquired regarding funding arrangements for these projects. It was apprised that the Institute will fund the approved projects. The projects shall be started on receipt of adequate Grants-in-Aids. Shri Choudhary further suggested that a mechanism to fix inter se priority for allocating these projects needs to be designed. The Institute indicated that a procedure will be developed for the said purpose. The progress of the projects will be routinely monitored by the external committees.

The Board inquired if the Institute has explored the provisioning of funds through Extra Mural funding. Faculty members are consistently writing extramural grants. The product-oriented projects are focused projects of the Institute for developing early leads and proof of concepts. The extramural funding may be available once a project reaches a level.

The Institute apprised that there is limited scope as CoE "*Establishment of Centre of Excellence (COE) at NIPER- SAS Nagar for Anti-Bacterial and Anti-Viral Drug Discovery and Development*" is mainly focused on Anti-Bacterial and Anti-Viral Drug Discovery and Development. The CoE with Granules India Ltd. is in the advanced stage of discussion and the company is to support a state-of-the-art facility, Postdoctoral Research fellows, and Scientists.

The Board while noting the submissions of the Institute advised to ensure the completion of projects as envisaged on receipt of Grant-in-Aids from the DoP.



7. Agenda item No. 83.2.6 regarding the Personal Promotion Scheme duly approved by the Board in its 59th meeting dated 23.03.2014 for Non-Teaching Employees of the Institute. (202)

The Board noted that the Committee constituted by the Institute is developing a Promotion Policy for the non-teaching employees of the Institute. After the Board's approval, the same shall be forwarded to the Nodal Ministry for consideration.

It also noted that the matter about the cut-off date of the Personal Promotion Policy (PPS) for the non-teaching employees of the Institute has been taken up with the Nodal Ministry.

8. Agenda Item No. 83.2.8 regarding Budget regarding Estimates (BE) FY 2023-24, Recurring [Grant in Aid (Salary) & Grant in Aid (General)] and Non-Recurring [Grant in Aid (Creation of Capital Assets)] of the Institute.

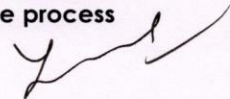
The Board noted that the Institute has received a Rs. 58 crore Grant in Aid towards Salary, General, and Creation of Capital Assets for the FY 2023-24, and Rs. 43 crores have been sanctioned for the FY 2024-25.

9. Agenda Item No. 83.2.9 regarding extension of benefits of *Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity* to NIPER Employees as applicable to the Central Government Employees covered under NPS.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary stated that the matter has been taken up with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, and their response is awaited.

10. Agenda Item No. 83.2.10 regarding vacant posts at NIPER, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali).

The Board expressed its satisfaction with the progress of the recruitment of the faculty of the Institute. The members discussed if the recruitment timeline could be further reduced. The Institute assured the Board that it will endeavor to complete the process as early as possible. The faculty recruitment process involves ensuring compliance with statutory provisions and is a sensitive matter. Therefore, every effort will be made to ensure the process is completed timely and flawlessly.



The Board also noted that the issue about the revival of the non-teaching posts of the Institute has been taken up with the Nodal Ministry. 4677

11. Agenda item No. 83.4 the Separate Audit Report (SAR) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, New Delhi on the Accounts of the Institute for the year ending 31st March 2023 and adoption of Accounts for the Year 2022-23 by the Board.

The Institute requested that FY 2023-24 be read as FY 2022-23 being a typographical error. The Board noted the ATR as requested.

12. Agenda Item No. 83.6 w.r.t. report on Citizen Charter of the Institute.

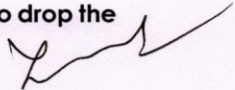
The Director of the Institute gave a presentation on the Citizen Charter along with the Monitoring and Grievance Redressal Mechanism.

The Chairperson appreciated the efforts of the Institute for developing the SoPs and remarked that the Grievance Redressal Mechanism should also be notified in Hindi and Punjabi and respective Sections be directed to submit monthly reports to the Director of the Institute. The Institute will continue to improve the Citizen Charter based on the experience/feedback from the stakeholders. It was further directed to provide a diary number or token number to the users while addressing their grievances.

The Board unanimously approved the Citizen Charter of the Institute as proposed and directed to implement it immediately.

13. Agenda Item No. 83.7 w.r.t. enhancement limitation of Rs. 2.00 lacs as specified in Clause 3.5.2 (b) of NIPER Statute.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary remarked that it is not correct to report that the enhancement of limitation of Rs. 2.00 lacs as specified in Clause 3.5.2 (b) of the Institute is not required because the Department of Expenditure has amended GFR (133 (2)) by a notice dated 20 May 2024. The factual position is that Clause 3.5.2. (b) of the NIPER Statutes does not need an amendment as it contains sufficient provisions and the status quo should be maintained.

The Board unanimously accepted the Institute's request to drop the agenda. 

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14. Agenda Item No. 83.9 concerning directions of the Board regarding the CDA/Agreement MoUs where the Agreements are International.

The Board noted that the Institute has executed two International agreements and a third international agreement is under negotiations.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary inquired whether the Institute is following the guidelines of the Ministry of External Affairs for signing International MoUs. The Institute informed that the reported agreements are not MoUs but CDAs. In the cases of International MoUs, all the statutory requirements including approval of MEA are obtained through the Nodal Ministry.

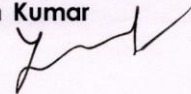
15. Agenda Item No. 82.3 To consider *"Establishment of Centre of Excellence (COE) at NIPER-SAS Nagar for Anti-Bacterial and Anti-Viral Drug Discovery and Development"*

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary observed that the Steering Committee, DOP had already approved Rs. 62 Crores for the *"Establishment of Centre of Excellence (COE) at NIPER- SAS Nagar for Anti-Bacterial and Anti-Viral Drug Discovery and Development."* He advised that till the time money is received, the Institute should be in a project-ready mode. The Institute should have completed associated procedural requirements e.g. opening of TSA account, finalization of design and drawing of the building, shortlisting of the required equipment, and completing the procurement process up to the Purchase Order stage. The observations and remarks of Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary were endorsed by the Board.

- 84.3 To ratify the minutes of the 21st meeting of the Academic Planning and Development Committee (APDC) held on 19th January 2024.

The Board was requested to read the date of meeting of 21st meeting of the Academic Planning and Development Committee (APDC) as 19.01.2024 instead of 16.06.2024 mentioned in the agenda due to oversight. The Board while accepting the request went through the recommendations of the Academic Planning and Development Committee (APDC) and deliberated as under:

1. APDC recommended the reemployment of a faculty after superannuation till the end of the academic semester to finish teaching and research responsibilities. Shri Awadhesh Kumar



Choudhary remarked that the recommendation is related to service conditions and has pan NIPER implications. It would be proper if the recommendations are considered by the NIPER Council. While agreeing with Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary, the Board deliberated if the retired faculty members may be engaged as consultants until the completion of the academic semester under '*Engagement of Consultant*', a Board-approved policy. After brief deliberations, the Board directed the Institute to forward the matter to the Nodal Ministry.

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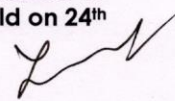
2. APDC has recommended students exchange programs with foreign universities. Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary informed the Board that other NIPERs have also flagged similar matters, hence a common policy, duly approved by the NIPER council is required to be implemented. Thereafter, it was unanimously resolved by the Board to direct the Institute to forward the matter to the Nodal Ministry for taking up the matter with the NIPER Council.
3. The Board endorsed the recommendation of APDC to create a '*COMMON FUND/CONSULTANCY CONTINGENCY FUND*' by allocating 5% (5 Five percent) of the Institute share of Consultancy Projects prospectively from FY 2023-24 to support and encourage future consultancy projects, which will be open and accessible to the Director exclusively, who will allocate money to the faculty members in his prerogative and wisdom keeping the interests of the Institute in view.

With the above observations, the Board unanimously resolved to approve/ratify the minutes of the 21st meeting of the Academic Planning and Development Committee (APDC) held on 19th January 2024

- 84.4 To ratify the minutes of the 44th Finance Committee held on 24th May, 2024.

After detailed deliberations of the Finance Committee regarding the recommendation of creating Separate Trusts for the management of Gratuity Funds and Earned Leave Encashment, the Board directed the Institute to explore the procedure being followed by other academic Institutes, a comparative statement containing the pros and cons of creation of Trusts and till then directed the Institute to maintain the status quo.

With the above observations, the Board unanimously resolved to approve/ratify the minutes of the 44th Finance Committee held on 24th May 2024.



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- 84.5 To consider the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Institute for the Financial Year 2023–2024.

The Board deliberated upon the agenda thoroughly, noted the recommendations of the Finance Committee and unanimously resolved to adopt and approve the Annual Statement of Accounts for the FY 2023–2024.

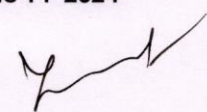
- 84.6 Report on Revised Estimates (RE), FY 2024-25 and Budget Estimate (BE) for FY 2025-26.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary pointed out that the agenda does not depict the complete picture as it does not provide the possible reasons for the deficit receipt of Grant-in-Aids. He mentioned that under the new procedure, the Government will not release the next installment until the Institute spends 75% of the funds received. The Institute could not fully utilize the funds allocated for the fiscal year 2022-23. The Institute stated that it faced procedural difficulties which prevented the full utilization of the funds. However, the Institute has now familiarized itself with the procedures and assured that it will efficiently use the allocated funds.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary further articulated that the Institute should try to achieve self-sustainability and financial resilience. It was apprised that the Institute has been encouraging its faculty members to generate revenue through grants, consultancy projects, patent royalty, short-term certificate courses, and high-end equipment service. The Institute is also working on a PPP model for establishing facilities for achieving financial resilience.

Thereafter, the Board resolved to recommend that salaries, stipends, and other obligatory expenses of the Institute certainly need support from the Ministry besides, significant financial support is also required consistently to upgrade the old Research Laboratories/ Buildings/ equipment, etc. of the Institute to achieve the expected targets.

The Board after threadbare deliberations unanimously approved the Revised Estimates (RE) of Rs. 187 Crores for FY 2024-25 and Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs. 228.34 Crores for FY 2025-26. The Board directed the Institute to keep pursuing the matter with the DoP for consideration of additional/supplementary allotment of Grant-in-Aids for the FY 2024-25.



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- 84.7 To consider the Governing Board and Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) for the Centre for Pharmaceutical Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CPIE)/Institute Incubation Centre.

The Board noted that the Institute has finalized the space for CPIE as per AIM and Bionest guidelines and has also initiated the process of registration of the company under section 8.

The Board deliberated on the proposed Governing Board for CPIE and approved the same with the direction to include two external experts; one each from a Business and Finance background in the Governing Board for CPIE.

The Board also went through the proposed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Start-up Enrolment at the Incubation Centre of the Institute along with different forms, approved the same, and directed to circulate these to Board members for their comments/advice.

- 84.8 Administrative matters are to be reported to the Board.

After thorough deliberations, the Board unanimously resolved to ratify the following administrative matters:-

1. Resignation submitted by Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Management.

Ratified.

2. Engagement of "YourDOST", a professional emotional wellness and career counseling organization for the emotional and Psychological well-being of students and staff of the Institute.

Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary inquired about the status of the recruitment of regular Medical Officers instead of the temporary arrangements hiring two Doctors, one full-time and one part-time. It was apprised that the Board in its 59th meeting held on 23rd March 2013 vide Agenda Item No.59.10 had approved the creation of posts and recruitment of two Medical Officers (one male and one female) and four paramedical staff for the Institute dispensary. However, presently the positions are deemed to be abolished, and the recruitment process will be initiated as soon as the positions are revived.

The Board also deliberated on hiring the services of "YourDOST" and noted that the Academic Planning and Development Committee, which is one of the Statutory Committees of the Institute had recommended hiring of Student Counsellors and

Yes

Council of Student Representatives (CSR), a student Association/committee duly approved by the Board also requests to appoint Student Counsellor. After brief deliberations, the Board while appreciating the efforts of the Institute, approved the hiring of services of "YourDOST" with a piece of advice to review the performance/requirement yearly.

- 84.9 To consider the constitution of the panel for BoG nominated Chairman and one Member in the Selection Committee for ongoing faculty recruitment.

The Director of the Institute presented a panel for the nominated Chairperson and one Member of the Selection Committee for ongoing faculty recruitment.

After deliberations, the Board unanimously resolved to approve the proposed panel for the Selection Committee required to be constituted following clause no. 3.6 of the NIPER Statutes-2003 for one year (attached as Annexure-1).

- 84.10 To consider nomination in the Laboratory Services Buildings & Works Committee (LSBWC) of the Institute in compliance with Clause 3.5.1 (e) of the Statutes.

After threadbare deliberations, the Board directed the Institute to pursue with CPWD to nominate an Officer of CPWD not below the rank of Superintending Engineer or his nominee not less than an Executive Engineer in compliance to Clause 3.5.1 (e) of the Statutes and till the nomination is received from CPWD Status quo may be allowed to maintain.

In concluding remarks, the Chairperson congratulated the Institute for steady improvement and various new research initiatives. He emphasized the role of industry-academia linkages in making NIPERs financially sustainable and thanked all the members for their valuable suggestions for further growth of the Institute.

There being no further points, the meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and by the Chair to the members.

**[विंग कमांडर पी.जे.पी. सिंह वडैच (सेवानिवृत्त)]
कुलसचिव, सचिव-शाषीमंडल, नाईपर,
एस. ए. एस. नगर (मोहाली)**