

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002**

**MINUTES OF THE 596TH MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
HELD ON 19TH MARCH, 2026.**

The 596th Meeting of the Commission was held on 19th March, 2026 in which the following were present:

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|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Dr. Vineet Joshi | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Ashish Kumar Chauhan | Member |
| 3. Prof. Badri Narayan Tiwari | Member |
| 4. Prof. Raj Kumar Mittal | Member |
| 5. Prof. (Retd.) Sachidananda Mohanty | Member |
| 6. Prof. Shashikala Gulabrao Wanjari | Member |
| 7. Prof. Tana Showren | Member |
| 8. Prof. Vandana Mishra | Member |

Shri D.Anandan, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Shri Sridhar Vembu – members UGC could not attend the meeting and were granted leave of absentia.

The following officer of the UGC also attended the meeting:

Secretary

Prof. Manish Ratnakar Joshi

SECTION-1

- 1.01(a)(i)** To confirm the minutes of the 595th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 30th January, 2026.

The Minutes were confirmed.

JS(Admn.)

- 1.01(a)(ii)** To confirm the minutes of the Emergent Meeting of the Commission was held on 23rd February, 2026.

The Minutes were confirmed with the following additions in item 2.01.

item 2.01 - To consider and amend the University Grants Commission (Recognition and Grant of Equivalence to Qualifications Obtained from Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2025.

It was decided to constitute an Expert Committee comprising 2–3 members to examine the matter in detail. The Committee shall submit its report within one week, and the same shall be placed before the Commission for consideration.

- **The Commission emphasized the need to expedite the process to ensure timely resolution of applications and refund the fees of the applicants whose applications are not being processed as they fall within the purview of other professional bodies.**

[Action: JS(Equivalence)/JS(Admn.)

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1.01(b)(i) To receive the action taken on the minutes of the 595th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 30th January, 2026.

Noted.

[Action: JS (Admn.)]

1.01(b)(ii) To receive the action taken on the minutes of the Emergent Meeting of the Commission was held on 23rd February, 2026.

Noted.

[Action: JS (Admn.)]

1.02(a): To ratify the action taken on certain matter.

- (i) To ratify the action taken on the matter of the inclusion of 50 Colleges under Section 2(f) and 12B of the UGC Act, 1956, between 01.01.2026 to 28.02.2026 as per the authorization given by the Commission in its 480th meeting held on 24.08.2011.

Ratified.

[Action: JS (CPP-I/Colleges)]

- (ii) To report the matter for including the name of Xavier University, Digha Ghat, Patna, Bihar in the list of universities established under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956.

Ratified.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/PU)]

1.02 (b) To receive the items for information. **(No item)**

1.03 To receive the position of funds of UGC and related issues. **(No item)**

SECTION-2

(MATTERS RELATING TO STANDARDS)

2.01 To consider the proposals for Categorization of State Private Universities as per the U.G.C [Categorization of Universities (only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy] Regulations, 2018.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/PU)]

2.02 To consider the proposal for conducting on-site inspection/visit of Private Universities under Section 13 of the UGC Act, 1956.

The matter was deliberated in detail, and it was resolved that a sub-committee of the Commission Members may be constituted to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for dealing with exceptional cases and complaints. The SoP, should be placed before the Commission at its next meeting.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/PU)]

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- 2.03** To consider the recommendations of the Standing Committee constituted by the Commission with regard to compliance submitted by the State (Private) Universities towards the fulfilment of the criterion as per inspection under Section 13 of the UGC Act, 1956, after inclusion of their names under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956, 12B status of the State (Public/Private) Universities and for opening the Off-Campus Centre of State Private Universities.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/PU)]

- 2.04** To consider the recommendations of the Standing Committee made in its 85th and 86th meetings held on 5th & 6th February 2026 and 26th & 27th February 2026, for conferment/extension of autonomous status upon the colleges.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS (AC)]

- 2.05** To consider the outcome of the physical inspection report of the G.L.A University, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS (DEB)]

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- 2.06** To consider the report of the FHEI Standing Committee constituted by UGC for “Setting-up of and operation of campuses of FHEIs in India” in respect of Flinders University, Australia.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS (IC)]

- 2.07** To reconsider the report on land requirement for Higher Educational Institutions.

Deferred for further deliberations.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]

- 2.08** To consider the report of the Expert Committee constituted by the Chairman, UGC, for virtual inspection to examine the application submitted for declaration as a Deemed to be University under the distinct category in the name of Shri Vithalrao Joshi Vidyapeeth, Kasarwadi, Sawarde, Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]

2.09 Establishing a mechanism to monitor compliance and performance of institutions deemed to be universities in accordance with the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulation, 2023.

- **It was resolved that a Committee may be constituted to recommend a mechanism/SOP to monitor compliance and performance of institutions deemed to be universities in accordance with the UGC ((Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulation, 2023.**
- **The mechanism/SOP may be placed before the Commission for approval, after which Expert Committees may operate with some flexibility within the defined framework of SOP.**

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]

2.10 To consider the :

1. Finalisation of the Mission LiFE course to be offered as a 2-credit course & a SWAYAM MOOC in the next academic session.
2. Inclusion of Central Universities, Institutions of National Importance and HEIs under the purview of other Central Government Ministries as Course Coordinators' host institutions in the SWAYAM Guidelines-2024 to be considered for offering MOOCs on SWAYAM.

Considered and approved to start preparatory work for the launch module of Mission LiFE in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal.

[Action: JS(SWAYAM)]

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SECTION -3

(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-4

(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-5

(GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-6

(MISCELLANEOUS)

(There is no item in this section)

**(PROF. MANISH RATNAKAR JOSHI)
SECRETARY**

**(DR. VINEET JOSHI)
CHAIRMAN**