



**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002**

EXPERT COMMITTEE REPORT ON STATE PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Part – I - Preliminary

(i)	Constitution of the Expert Committee	Following table shows the constitutions of the UGC Expert Committee
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S.N.	Name & Affiliation	UGC Expert Committee Designation	Contact Details
1	Prof. Keshava Prasad Singh Former VC, VBS Purvanchal University, Jaunpur, Emeritus Professor, Department of Electronics Engineering Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi - 221005.	Chairman of the Committee	Email: kpsingh.ece@iitbhu.ac.in Ph: 09838772196
2	Prof. Dinesh Kumar Vice Chancellor, JC Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA Faridabad- 121 006.	Chairman of the AICTE Team	Email: dineshelectronics@gmail.com Ph. 097299 99452, 98962 46590
3	Prof. Sanjay Kumar Jain Visitors Innovation Award Winner Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. H S Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (MP)	UGC Expert /Member	Email: drskjainin@gmail.com Ph: 09425172184
4	Prof. K.P. Maheshwari Former Head, School of Physics, Devi Ahila Vishwavidyalaya 288, Chambal Garden Road, Kota-324009 (Raj.)	UGC Expert /Member	Ph: 094134 73551
5	Prof. Suresh Kumar Department of Electronic Sciences Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra – 136119	UGC Expert /Member	Email: kumar@kuk.ac.in Ph: 094163 77282

S.N.	Name & Affiliation	UGC Expert Committee Designation	Contact Details
6	Prof. Deepak Srivastava Professor of Strategy, Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli. (TN)	UGC Expert /Member	Email: deepak@iimtrichy.ac.in Ph: 09879343446, (0431)-2505017
7	Prof. N. R. Sheth Vice Chancellor Gujarat Technological University Nr. Visat Three Roads, Visat- Gandhinagar Highway, Chandkheda, Ahmedabad- 382424, Gujarat	Nominee from PCI	Email: navin_sheth@yahoo.com Mob: 09099939417, 079- 26403140, 23267527
8	Dr. Salil S Dy. Secretary, University Grants Commission, Hyderabad	UGC Co- ordinating Officer	Email: salil.ugc@gmail.com Ph. 9048087110

(ii)	Date(s) of the visit	2 nd and 3 rd July, 2022
(iii)	Any other information (Non-participation of members, any special factor or situation/ difficulties relevant to the report	All the UGC Expert Committee Members participated in the visit.

Part – II - Introduction

(i)	Brief introduction of the University	Atmiya University , Yogidham Gurukul, Kalawad Road, Rajkot-360005, Gujarat was established under Gujarat State Private University (Amendment) Act 11 of 2018 & managed by Sarvodaya Kelavani Samaj Trust.
(ii)	Date of establishment of the University	13 th April, 2018
(iii)	Brief description of the University and its faculties/courses	Atmiya University is a private multi-disciplinary socio-educational institution located in the Sourashtra region of Gujarat. Atmiya University is a Unitary University offering 5 Diploma, 22 UG, 1 Integrated PG, 15 PG, 1 PG Diploma and 14 Ph.D. programs across the domains of Engineering, Science, Commerce, Management, Pharmacy and Humanities under five Faculty. Outcome Based Education (OBE), Multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary courses, skill integration and mainstreaming of sustainability and Universal Human Values are some of the examples of the University's efforts in offering relevant and quality-focused programmes.

		The University's academic activities and deliberations are presently under 5 Faculty viz : - 1. Faculty of Science (9 UG, 7 PG, 1 PGD, 7 Ph.D) 2. Faculty of Business & Commerce (5 UG, 2 PG, 1 Integrated PG, 2 Ph.D) 3. Faculty of Health Science (1 UG, 2 PhD, 1 Ph.D) 4. Faculty of Engineering & Technology (6 UG, 4 PG, 5 Diploma, 3 Ph.D) 5. Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences (1 UG,). As per its vision and Core values, the University has got approval to start a Faculty of Transformative Education from the AY 2022-2023 onwards encompassing areas of • Sustainable Development • Indian Knowledge systems • Health & Wellness • Consciousness Development • Ancient Technologies University also offers programmes like: (1) B.Com. – Logistics (Apprenticeship based UG program in Collaboration with Logistics Sector Skill Council, GoI) (2) B.B.A. – Entrepreneurship and Family Business (3) B.Com. – Professional Accounting (4) BCA – IIP (Learning embedded in Industry) Programme details are placed
(iv)	Brief description of the Trust/Society that governs the University	Sarvodaya Kelavani Samaj – the managing Trust of Atmiya University is a non-profit organisation registered under the Gujarat Public Trust Act, 1950; Registration No F/ 28/ Rajkot. Registration NoF.28,Rajkot, 29 January, 1963 The Trust, running under the parent Trust i.e. Yogi Divine Society, Haridham, Sokhda, is primarily involved in the socio- educational activities and thus extending the services for the noble cause of the society in developing youth as leaders.

A. Legal Status

(i)	Is the University duly established under the law and as required in the UGC Regulations? (refer 1.10 and 1.11 of the format)	Yes, Atmiya University has been established under Gujarat Private University Act No. 11, 2018, which is an extension of Gujarat Private University Act No. 08, 2009. The Act has been published in the Gujarat Gazette and notified by the State Government on 6th April, 2018. (Notification from Education Department, GoG No.GH/SH/9/EPU/2017/241/KH1 Date: 13th April, 2018.) The University has also obtained the 2(f) status by the UGC. (F No8-9/2018(CPP-1/PU dated 15 Nov 2019).
(ii)	Is the Trust/Society involved in promoting the University sufficiently focussed on educational activities and independent of their business or any other interest, if any?	Yes. The managing Trust promotes holistic education in the state aiming holistic development of the stakeholders through transformative educational activities The Trust is not involved in any other business or professional activity.

B. Organization Description

(i)	Does the University abide by UGC Regulations on off-campus centres Yes No Not applicable (refer 2.4 of the format)	Not Applicable (No off-campus centres)
(ii)	Does the University abide by UGC Regulations on off-Shore campus centres Yes No Not applicable (refer 2.5 of the format)	Not Applicable (No off-Shore campus)
(iii)	Does the University offer courses under distance mode with the approval of competent authority of the Government of India? Yes No Not applicable	Not Applicable (No programs offered under distance mode)

	(refer 2.6 and 2.7 of the format)	
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C. Academic Activities

(i)	Are the courses offered by the University narrowly focussed or adequately diverse?	Yes, The programs and courses offered by the University are adequately diverse under different faculty. The curriculum of the University, even since inception in 2018 has embraced inter & transdisciplinary learning across domains & faculty. The curriculum revision in 2021 in line with NEP 2020 has enhanced this transdisciplinary.
(ii)	Are the list of courses for the award of degree as per the Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956?	Yes
(iii)	Is the sanctioned intake is as per the norms/intake sanctioned by the concerned Statutory Council(s)/UGC?	Yes, as per UGC, AICTE, PCI.
(iv)	Whether courses run are approved by concerned Statutory Council(s)?	Yes, as per UGC, AICTE, PCI.
(v)	Are there adequate support facilities for students, especially for disadvantaged students? (refer 4.5 of format)	Yes, The University has adequate students support facilities 1. Good Academic and Administrative infrastructure with elevators, ramps, wheel chair, common rooms with sanitary pad Vending machine, Auditoriums, seminar halls etc. 2. Central maintenance cell (Civil – Electrical – ICT – Instruments and Equipments – Housekeeping - Security) 3. Centralised server room & computer facility 4. Wifi campus 5. Uninterrupted Power Supply 6. Solar Power Generation – 100kw 7. Week long access to Library and Reading Rooms with Central AC facility 8. Sports Ground 9. Gymnasium 10. Yoga Hall 11. Student Store

		12. ATM 13. Hostel, Mess, canteen 14. Parking facility
(vi)	Are the students adequately informed? (refer 4.7 and 4.8 of the format)	Yes, the information dissemination is made through (1) Secured & dynamic website of the University (2) Robust Campus Management System & integrated e-governance system (3) Emails through dedicated secured domain (4) Social Media (5) Notice Boards.
(vii)	Is there a Grievance Redressal Mechanism and is that working properly? (refer 4.9 of the format)	Yes, The University has a Grievance redressal mechanism through following cells for staff and students 1. Equal Opportunity cell 2. Anti-ragging cell 3. Gender Sensitization cell 4. Anti-discrimination cell 5. Internal Complaints Committee
(viii)	Is the University following proper procedure for formulation and revision of curriculum on periodic basis? (refer 5.1 to 5.4 of the format)	Yes, The University is following due procedure for formulating and revision of curriculum on periodic basis through respective Board of Studies of the departments. These are finally discussed and approved by Academic Council. The BoS has taken into consideration the following student centric criteria during the revision of the curriculum. • Affective behaviour changes • Psychomotor behaviour changes • Cognitive behaviour changes. The University has introduced the first curriculum in the year 2018 after its establishment. The latest revision of the curriculum was done in July 2021 which is in line with the aspirations of NEP 2020. The courses & components in the curriculum are also classified into fundamental, advanced & Applied in order to facilitate and capture the K levels of Bloom's Taxonomy.
(ix)	How regular, fair and transparent is the examination system? (refer 5.7 to 5.14)	Examination System at the University is fully transparent Some of the features of examination system

		1. Dedicated and dynamic Examination Software 2. Formative and Summative Assessment through CIA and SEE 3. Assignments, Quizzes, Internship, minor and major projects, Field Visit, Practical's, attainments through rubrics 4. Question paper patterns involve objective and subjective questions. 5. Timely dissemination of Exam Calendars to all concerned. 6. Evaluation of answer scripts through centralized evaluation system by internal and external examiners 7. Opportunities to students for going in for re-evaluation & re-totalling. 8. Formation of Examination Squad 9. Systematic process and procedure for Unfair means. 10. Declaration of results within 21 days of last date of examination.
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D. Admission Process

(i)	Does the University follow fair and transparent procedure for admission? (refer 6.1 and 6.7 of the format)	Yes, the University follows fair and transparent procedure for admission which is based on policy and procedure of Government and the University. The eligibility criteria and the fee structure of each programme are displayed on the University website. The information of the admission are also displayed on website as well as daily newspapers. The admission of NRI & Overseas students for the professional programmes are being made through Centralized Admission Committee ie ACPC & ACPDC, Govt. of Gujarat. For non-professional programmes, the admissions are made through Entrance test / PI / Academic records as per Atmiya University procedure.
(ii)	Do any special reservation on quota follow clearly laid down policy?	Yes, The University follows the Reservation Policy laid down by the Government, Regulatory body / Council and University.

E. Fee Structure

(i)	Are the students sufficiently informed about the fees and charges payable?	Yes, The Students are well informed about program wise fees in total and its semester wise split up. The fees are well communicated through following means: 1. Prospectus and web announcement
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		2. Admission Counselling at entry level 3. CMS for student admitted 4. Academic Mentors
(ii)	Does the University follow its own declared policy in collecting any fees or charges or are there some charges over and above the publically stated fee structure?	Yes. The University follows its own transparent policy for the fee announcements and fee collection. There is no charges over and above the publicly stated fee structure. University fees are being fixed by the following committes: 1. FRC - Fee Regulatory Committee of the State Government 2. Guidelines for Scholarships / Freeships stipulated by Government and Sponsoring body. 3. Resolutions of FC of the University & BoM & GB 4. Education loans
(iii)	Is the mode of fees collection transparent or are there complaints of payments without receipts?	Yes, the fees collection mode is transparent and there is no complaints regarding it. The University follows following payment & transaction modes: 1. Online / Internet based 2. App. based 3. Unified Payments Interface (UPI)/ Gateway 4. National level payment facility at any branch of Axis Bank
(iv)	Are the fees reasonable compared to costs involved in running the programmes and to other similar institutions?	Yes, The said care is being taken by FRC and FC as per Scheme of Learning and Evaluation (SLE).
(v)	Is the fee structure based on a policy or guidelines laid down by the Government?	Yes, it is based on a policy or guidelines laid down by the Government.
(vi)	Is there any indication of the University being run solely or primarily for commercial gains?	No During the entire visit, the committee observed that the University does not run for the commercial gains but rather runs with a goal of transformative education leading to generation of knowledge and value based citizen.

F. Faculty

(i)	Does the University follow Pay Scales and service conditions laid down by the UGC?	No. In most of the cases, the institution is paying consolidated salary for their teaching and non-teaching staff which is less than sixth pay commission. Some of the senior staff are getting salary of 6 th pay commission.
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(ii)	Is the faculty well qualified and well trained for the courses? (if required, please make comments separately for each faculty/department)	Yes. The University has 270 faculty members. Most of them are qualified as per the UGC norms. The University organizes need based FDPs, Capacity building programs and TTPs on regular basis by experts of national and international repute. Faculty members have completed 1236 online courses.
(iii)	Is the proportion of permanent faculty adequate or is the University being mainly run by deploying contractual faculty /guest faculty/ Part-time faculty?	Mostly adequate. The University has necessary number of qualified permanent faculty members. The faculty student ratio is 1:24.
(iv)	Has the University followed due process for recruitment of faculty?	Yes, the University has its own recruitment policy based on the norms / guidelines of UGC and Government and is based on the HR Policy, procedures and processes.

G.

Infrastructure

(i)	Are the following infrastructure facilities adequate? Land and Buildings Class Rooms Laboratories and equipment Library Sports facilities Residential accommodation including hostels	Yes, The University is located in Yogi Dham Gurukul campus which is spread over 23.25 acres of land with adequate learning facilities as per the norms of regulatory bodies / councils / UGC. The representative facilities are as follows: • Buildings: Six (6) well ventilated Buildings with sufficient space. • Classrooms: 176 Class Rooms fitted with ICT facility and Wi-Fi enabled. • Laboratories Equipment: 131 Laboratories and Special Laboratories; Research Laboratories; and Central Instrumentation Facility. • Language labs - 2 • Library: Library & Learning Centre centrally air-conditioned reading rooms. • Workshop, UHV Cell, Animal House, Medicinal Plant Garden, Terrace garden, robotics Labs – E – Yantra, Tinkering Lab Skill centre: SSIP; and BIRAC E-Yuva centre. • Sports Facilities: Indoor and Outdoor facilities with one major play ground. • Hostels: One hostel for boys and one for girls. • Canteen and Mess • Working woman hostel- One For details, please refer
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H. Financial Viability











(i)	Does the University have adequate and independent funds?	The sponsoring trust has adequate and independent funds.
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I. Governance System

(i)	Are various authorities and bodies responsible for the governance of the University in place and working regularly and properly?	Yes, All authorities and <u>5</u> statutory and <u>20</u> non-statutory bodies/ committees/ sub committees responsible for the governance of the University are in place and working regularly as per the provisions made in the GPU Act 11 of 2018 and Statutes of the University.
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J. Research Profile

(i)	How would you rate the research profile of the University in terms of Research orientation, environment, facilities and output?	The University has necessary infrastructural, ICT and Library resources for knowledge creation and dissemination. Research is carried out in the university at PG, PhD levels in a progressive manner as academic research. Out of 118 Ph.D. Scholars, 12 Scholars are receiving scholarship under SHODH scheme of GoG of Rs. 15,000 p.m and Rs. 20,000 as contingency per year. The University has 49 Ph.D. supervisors. The University promotes a research & innovation culture by providing seed money to some of the researchers. It has also four sponsored research projects to a tune of Rs. 2 lakhs from GSBTM, Niti Ayog, Biothon , GSBTM. The University has good research record which is evidenced from filing of around 28 patents (10 published and 2 granted), and 418 research papers in Scopus/WoS/UGC Care Journals. The University has research promotion and mentoring mechanism such as URAB (University Research Advisory Board) to lay standards and processes to promote, monitor, address and consolidate activities related to research and innovation. The URAB has met approximately 16 times over the last 4 years. There are other committees to develop a research culture amongst students eg. Concept to Practice Committee, and through internships and mini projects. • The institution has Central Instrument Facility with high end instruments. • The University has Government of Gujarat sponsored SSIP and DBT sponsored
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		BIRAC E-Yuva Centre to support Research and Innovation practices. The E- yuva scheme is for Rs. 2.66 crore for 3 years. Environment Audit Cell of GPCB. • 3 Students had research immersion at Miyazaki University, Japan. • 36 Students and 3 faculty members trained in Entrepreneurial boot camp with KGI University, USA.
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K. Miscellaneous

(i)	Is the Non-teaching staff adequate, well qualified and paid as per the norms of the concerned State Government?	Yes, The non-teaching staff are adequate in number and also competent as per the norms. They are classified as Administrative, estate, technicians, lab assistants, Mechanics, system administrators, computer operators, etc depending on the need. The faculty non teaching staff ratio is 1:0.79.
(ii)	Do the academic results show evidence of independent and rigorous evaluation prior to the issue of degrees?	Yes, The academic results are the reflection of independent and rigorous, summative and formative outcome based assessment & evaluation process.
(iii)	Has the University obtained necessary and desirable accreditations?	The University is established in AY 2018-19, hence not matching the eligibility criteria for accreditation & ranking.

L. Strength and Weaknesses of the University

(i)	Strengths of the University	1. The University has a friendly and safe campus. 2. An educational approach with orientation to universal human values. 3. The novelty of Transformative Education 4. More than 3 decades of Learning experience in academic governance and institutional management. 5. Dedicated Faculty Members and Support Staff with service orientation. 6. Particularly catering to weaker sections of the society. 7. Good infrastructure 8. An Outcome based Assessment and evaluation system coordinated and documented by e-examination system. 9. Good stakeholder network, as evident from 25 MoUs and collaborations, with industries, NGOs, committees and others at national and international levels 10. The institution is governed by a reputed spiritual trust. <i>Other important strengths are shown under Part-IV of this report.</i>
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(ii)	Weaknesses of the University	1. The institution is in transition phase from group of externally controlled institutions to fully autonomous Faculty and Schools. 2. The above, creates challenges in role clarity and response rates at Faculty level. 3. More industry partnerships are needed. 4. Average placement offers of the students need to be further improved. 5. Research culture only limited to some Faculty, which need to be further expanded. <i>Other important weaknesses are commented on under the head "Suggestions" below the Part-IV of this report.</i>
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Part – IV – Recommendations

A. Observations of the Committee

General observations

1. The University came into existence in 2018 under Gujarat State Private University Act.
2. The institution was initially established as different colleges and has a planned growth by gradually integrating them under the ambit of the University over a period of time.
3. The institution has a strong philanthropic orientation which is reflected in the fee, general value system practiced. Currently many faculty members are in the AICTE panel of *Universal Human Value (UHV)* campaign on pro-bono basis.
4. The solutionary approach to learning in the form of "concept to practice" and transformative learning philosophy are appreciable, though its daily curricular implementations and real-life practices need to be fine-tuned.
5. E-Office management system is in place which is developed in-house by the institution.
6. Anonymous feedback system is facilitated for students in which the students can post remarks, opinions and grievances on the institutional portal.
7. The institution has good research laboratories in science and engineering disciplines.

Sustainability

8. A good number of sustainable practices are in place. The campus owns rooftop solar power plant of 200 kW capacity. The entire campus is LED lit and has a paper recycling unit. Rainwater harvesting facility of 50,000 litres.
9. Campus has more than 500 neem trees and well maintained.
10. The campus has a systematic waste processing and recycling process in place. There is a industrial *scale wet alkali scrubber* to neutralise hazardous produces in science labs.
11. The campus has a water purifier system which is in-house developed. The campus has well maintained *Gowshala* with proper housing, ventilation and ceiling sheds.

Faculty-wise observations

12. In the faculty of science, the total value of ongoing extramural funded research projects, consultancies and schemes are Rs. 301.78 lakhs and the value of completed work is Rs. 558.58 in the last decade, including the period of being a science college. The faculty of science is doing Environment Audit of industries for Government of Gujarat since several years.
13. The faculty of science has necessary infrastructure and research laboratories in place.
14. The institution has filed 28 patents (10 published and 2 granted).
15. PG programmes in the *Faculty of Business & Commerce* gets majority of its student strength from the UG programmes of the same institution.
16. The *School of Pharmaceutical Sciences* has good research attempts with 130 publications, h index of 16, and i10 index of 20 since inception of the school or existence as a college.

General Suggestions

Faculty and academic infrastructure

1. Senior faculty members with good research background need to be appointed at the level of professor and associate professor in order to improve research culture. The vacant posts of the institute should be filled on priority basis.
2. Some of the faculty members are provided with consolidated salary. Salary Matrix, employee progression and Cadre ratio need to be rationalised.
3. A policy framework and incentive mechanism may be devised for encouraging the quality of publications.
4. Internet bandwidth is not sufficient to meet the academic data demands of present number of students and faculty members.
5. Entrepreneurial ecosystem needs an overall improvement. For example, incubation centre should be activated using more structured activities and facilities like tinkering labs.

Governance, Administration and finance

6. The institution works on value-centeredness. However, the institution needs to bring more clarity in its core differentiators and uniqueness.
7. Maternity leaves need to be provided with full pay as per Government rules.
8. Food quality in hostels need to be improved.

Physical Infrastructure

9. The Department of Pharmacy need to be equipped with more number of sufficient e-journals and print journals and latest official books. Labs and equipment in pharmacy department need upgradation.

Others

10. The institution needs to register in Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) and plan for more multiple-entry and exit options in a phased manner as per NEP 2020.

11. While many initiatives such as learn-while-earn, paper presentation by students etc are remarkable attempts, their presence and such practices can be scaled up to more students.
12. Sports facilities are abysmal and need to be augmented with facilities befitting to the need of the day.
13. The committee suggests the institution to participate in the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) and explore all similar initiatives of different ministries and departments under the Govt of India.
14. Placement efforts need to be strengthened in phased manner, starting with raising the average placement salary.
15. A suggestion box may be maintained and periodical open houses may be conducted.

Future directions

16. The knowledge and experience of the institution needs to be more crystallised so that the University can emerge as a leading hub in the initiatives of Indian Knowledge System (IKS) under NEP.
17. Diversifying into more courses related to Education, Agriculture and Appropriate Technology, Rural Development, post-graduation in social sciences and sciences with suitable number of faculty, facilities and relevant approvals should be a priority. Considering the core values of the University, skill-centres, farmer empowerment hubs and other immersive structures closer to the beneficiaries as avenues of social service may be developed.
18. New programmes of different duration and credentials may be designed for capacity building of industry employees and devise industry-connects for infrastructure sharing.
19. To facilitate further expansion or for additional land for the new initiatives mentioned above, the current act may be amended with necessary provisions.
20. Considering that the region is an industry hub of automobile components, the institution may develop industry specific programmes of different duration and credentials for upskilling of industry employees and devise industry-connects for infrastructure sharing.

B. Suggestions of the Committee that requires Satisfactory Compliance

1. The institution is required to appoint a regular registrar following due selection process.
2. Corpus fund ('corporate fund' as mentioned in the Act) is in the name of the sponsoring society. This needs to be transferred in the name of the University.

[Handwritten signatures and initials in blue ink]

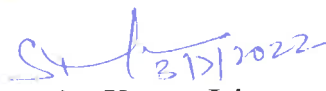
C. Final Recommendations

Based on the visit to the campus and premises at Rajkot, after examining the physical and intellectual infrastructure, verification of documents, interaction with the stakeholders and observation of practices of the institution, the Joint Visiting Committee comprising experts from UGC, AICTE and PCI, unanimously recommends UGC for conferring Private University status to **Atmiya University, Yogidham Gurukul, Kalawad Road, Rajkot 360 005, Gujarat**, subject to the compliance mentioned above.

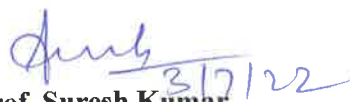
(Name and Signatures of the Expert Committee Members)


Prof. Dinesh Kumar
Chairman of the AICTE Team


Prof. Keshava Prasad Singh
Chairman of the Committee


Prof. Sanjay Kumar Jain
UGC Expert /Member


Prof. K.P. Maheshwari 03-07-2022
UGC Expert /Member


Prof. Suresh Kumar
UGC Expert /Member


Prof. Deepak Srivastava
UGC Expert /Member


Prof. N. R. Sheth
Nominee from the PCI


Dr. Salil S
Coordinating Officer