UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002

MINUTES OF THE 527TH MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
HELD ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2017.

The 527th Meeting of the Commission was held on 22nd December, 2017 in which the following were present:

1. Prof. V.S. Chauhan  
   Chairman (Acting)
2. Mr. Kewal Kumar Sharma  
   Member
3. Prof. Inder Mohan Kapahy  
   Member
4. Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Chander Kuhad  
   Member
5. Dr. G. Gopal Reddy  
   Member
6. Dr. (Ms.) Sushma Yadav  
   Member

Mr. Pramod Kumar Das and Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar could not attend the Meeting due to their pre-occupation and were granted leave of absence.

The following officer of the UGC also attended the meeting.

Secretary
Mr. P.K. Thakur (officiating)
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AGENDA

SECTION-1

1.01(a) To confirm the minutes of the 526th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 29th September, 2017.

The Minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

1.01(b) To receive the action taken on the minutes of the 526th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 29th September, 2017.

Noted.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

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

(i) To report the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted by the Commission in its 497th meeting held on 10.01.2014 with regard to approval of institutions under sections 2(f), 12 (B) and compliance under Section 13 of the UGC Act, 1956.

Noted.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

(ii) To report the action taken on the recommendations of the Committee constituted by the Chairman, UGC to examine the issues relating to reservation raised by High Court of Allahabad in its order dated 7-4-2017.

Noted.

[Action: JS(CU)]
(iii) To ratify the decision to implement the Post Graduate scholarship to GATE/GPAT qualified students in all Universities (Central/State/Deemed/Private) with effect from January 2016 to June 2017.

Considered and Approved.

[Action: JS(SA)]

(iv) To ratify the action taken by the Chairman, UGC regarding the approval of the University Grants Commission’s Annual Report for the year 2016-17.

Considered and Approved.

[Action: AS-I]

(v) To report the concurrence received from M/HRD and the status on revision of guidelines on Rationalization of Distribution of Plan Grant under various UGC Schemes.

Noted. Further, the Commission authorized the Chairman, UGC for consideration and approval of revised guidelines of schemes of UGC consequent to Rationalization of UGC Schemes already approved by the Commission in its 526th Meeting held on 29th September, 2017 and concurred by the Ministry of Human Resource Development vide its letter F.No. 12-19/2017-U1 dated 12th October, 2017.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]
SECTION-2
(MATTERS RELATING TO STANDARDS)

2.01 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited BLDE (Deemed to be University), Smt. Bangaramma Sajjan Campus, Dr. B.M. Patil Road (Solapur Road), Vijayapur – 586103, Karnataka during 22-24th September, 2017 to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

2.02 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to assess the proposal submitted by Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune (Maharashtra) for inclusion of (i) Dr. D.Y.Patil College of Ayurved and Research Centre, Pune and (ii) Dr. D.Y. Patil Homoeopathic Medical College & Research Centre, Pune under its ambit.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

Action: JS(CPP-I)]
2.03 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (Deemed to be University), Padur, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, OMR, Kelambakkam, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted along with documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

2.04 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Birla Institute of Technology (Deemed to be University), Mesra, Ranchi – 835215 (Jharkhand) to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved. A copy of the report of the Expert Committee may be sent to MHRD. It was noted that the Birla Institute of Technology (Deemed to be University), Mesra, Ranchi has started off-campuses/extension centres at Lalpur, Noida, Jaipur, Patna and Deoghar without the approval of the Ministry of HRD, as required in the UGC guidelines (now Regulations). Therefore, the Commission further resolved that a strong advisory be sent to the Deemed University about these off-campuses/extension centres and also the matter be referred to the Committee of Commission Members constituted to look into the issues related to off-campus centres.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]
To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences (BITS), Deemed to be University, Pilani, Rajasthan to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved. A copy of the report of the Expert Committee may be sent to MHRD. It was noted that the Birla Institute of Technology (Deemed to be University), Pilani, Rajasthan has started off-campus centres at Goa and Hyderabad without the approval of the Ministry of HRD, as required in the UGC guidelines (now Regulations). Therefore, the Commission further resolved that a strong advisory be sent to the Deemed University about these off-campus centres and also the matter be referred to the Committee of Commission Members constituted to look into the issues related to off-campus centres.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), (Deemed to be University), Mumbai, Maharashtra to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted along with documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS (CPP-I)]
To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Bhatkhande Music Institute (Deemed to be University), Kaisarbagh, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University), Dayalbagh, Agra – 282005 (Uttar Pradesh) to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Indian Law Institute (Deemed to be University), Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi during 08-10th October, 2017 to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]
2.10 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Graphic Era (Deemed to be University), Bell Road, Clement Town, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) during 11-13th October, 2017 to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

2.11 The UGC Expert Committee which visited MGM Institute of Health Sciences (Deemed to be University), Sector-01, Kamothe, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

2.12 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Vignan’s Foundation for Science, Technology and Research (Deemed to be University), Vadlamudi, Guntur Dist. – 522213, Andhra Pradesh during 09-11th October, 2017 to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6
months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

2.13 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Chennai Mathematical Institute (Deemed to be University), H 1 SIPCOT IT Park, Siruseri, Kelambakkam, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

2.14 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Manav Rachna International (Deemed to be University), Sector-43, Delhi Surajkund Road, Faridabad (Haryana) during 29-31st October, 2017 to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

2.15 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Vel’s Institute of Science, Technology & Advanced Studies (VISTAS) (Deemed to be University), Pallavaram, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) during 02-04th November, 2017 to
review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

2.16

To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (Deemed to be University), Janpath, New Delhi during 23-25th October, 2017 to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Considered and approved with the condition that the suggestions by the visiting Expert Committee, if any, will be addressed within a period of 6 months and the compliance report would be submitted alongwith documentary proof to UGC.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

2.17

To report the decision taken by the Ministry of HRD vide its letter No. F. 2-18/2014-U3(A) dated 21.06.2017 to permit Vellore Institute of Technology (Deemed to be University) to admit students in B.Tech (ECE) at its Chennai Campus.

Noted.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]
2.18 To consider the report of Expert Committee/working group to review the functioning of HRDCs and allow the amendments in the provision of existing guidelines of Human Resource Development Centre.

Considered and approved with following observations:
(i) Dearness Allowance – No
(ii) Travelling Allowance – to continue.

Further, it was resolved to authorize the Chairman, UGC to constitute a separate Committee for reformulating/restructuring Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs) to make them more effective and meaningful in the present scenario. The Committee so constituted will also have representatives from NIEPA and MHRD and will take inputs from Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT). UGC to ensure proper monitoring of these Centres.

[Action: JS(HRDC)]

2.19 To consider the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee on specification of degrees held on 30.10.2017.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]

2.20 To consider the approval of courses and manpower for establishment/strengthening of School of Education/Faculty of Education in Central Universities/Deemed to be Universities.

Deferred.

[Action: JS(CU)]
SECTION-3
(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

3.01 To consider the Verification Report of the UGC Committee constituted to verify the documents/records in respect of the two issues raised by the Ministry of HRD vide its letter No. F. 10-3/2017-U.3(A) dated 06.10.2017 relating to the Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (Deemed to be University), Vaddeswaram, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh.
Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

SECTION-4
(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

4.01 To implement the recommendations of the NET Review Committee in UGC-NET.
Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(NET)]

4.02 To consider University Grants Commission (Recognition and Monitoring of Assessment and Accreditation Agencies) Regulations – 2017.
Deferred.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]

4.03 To consider the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Autonomous Colleges for grant of fresh/extension of autonomous status to colleges.
Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(AC)]
To consider the overlapping in terms of reference for Standing Committee and High Power Distance Education Committee (HPDEC) and necessary directions thereof.

Considered and approved. Further, it was resolved to change the nomenclature of HPDEC dropping ‘High Powered’.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

To consider the recommendations of the Expert Committee to prepare modules on Consumer Studies.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]

To consider the report of the Expert Committee constituted by UGC to finalise the following guidelines

(i) **COACHING SCHEMES FOR SC/ST/OBC (NON-CREAMY LAYER) & MINORITY COMMUNITY STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

   a) Remedial Coaching for SC, ST, OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) & Minority Community Students.
   b) Coaching Classes for Entry into Services for SC,ST,OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) & Minority Community Students.
   c) Coaching for NET/SET for SC, ST, OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) & Minority Community Students.

(ii) **SCHEME OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CENTRE FOR UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.**

(iii) **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SCHEME IN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.**

   a). Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (HEPSN)
   b). Visually- Challenged Teachers
   c). Teacher Preparation in Special Education Scheme (TEPSE)
(iv) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRES IN UNIVERSITIES FOR
STUDY OF SOCIAL EXCLUSIONS AND INCLUSIVE POLICY.

Deferred.

[Action: JS(SCT)]

4.07 To consider observations and recommendations of the Expert Committee
consituted to consider certain issues related to UGC (Open and Distance

The Commission observed various facts related to ODL education; as
mentioned in the background note of the Agenda Item; which primarily
included genesis of ODL Education in the Country, notification of UGC
(ODL) Regulations, 2017 in the Gazette on 23rd June, 2017 and first
Amendment of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 in the Gazette on 11th
October, 2017. Commission also observed various issues related to notify
UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017; that have emerged from the meetings held as
mentioned in the background note of the Agenda and with the Additional
Solicitor General. The issues emerged are from the perspectives of effective
implementation, minimum quality benchmark and parity with other UGC
Regulations under consideration. Commission also made note of issues on
which UGC sought advice of the ASG, information related to receipt of 154
applications from the HEIs as per notified Regulations, NAAC accreditation
status of the Higher Educational Institutions recognized for the year 2017-18,
the recent order dated 3rd November, 2017 by the Hon’ble Supreme Court
in the Orissa Lift Irrigation case primarily on ODL mode of education and
decision of the Chairman, UGC to constitute an Expert Committee to
deliberate and advice the Commission in the matter.
The Commission considered the recommendations of the Expert Committee and after detailed deliberations decided the following:

Recommendation 1: From 2018-19 onwards, Standalone institutions to be regulated by the AICTE.

The Commission approved the recommendations of the Expert Committee; "....Standalone institutions should be regulated from the academic session 2018-19 onwards by the AICTE, as AICTE Act has a provision to regulate standalone institutions. For this AICTE should immediately draft ODL regulations in sync with the UGC......."


The Commission appreciated the Expert Committee’s observations and recommendations thereof. Commission was of the view that withdrawal of the notified ODL Regulations is not a solution to the issues observed by the Committee and also it will be lead to vacuum in ODL Regulatory framework coupled with the facts that the provisions have not been challenged and the notified Regulations have been already submitted in the Hon’ble Supreme Court and various Courts across the Country.

Keeping in view the above points, the Commission decided that Regulations should not be withdrawn.

The Commission was also of the view that NAAC accreditation without any minimum CGPA is not a good quality benchmark and accordingly decided to raise benchmark. After analysing the facts and taking a holistic view in the matter, Commission decided that NAAC with minimum CGPA of 3.26 on a 4 Point scale shall be kept as minimum quality benchmark.
The Commission then deliberated on the relevant provisions and decided that the amendment(s) as mentioned below shall be made in the notified UGC(ODL) Regulations, 2017:

Amendment in Clause 3.1(viii):

Present: The Higher Educational Institution has valid accreditation from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and has completed five years of existence.

Amended Clause:

The Higher Educational Institution has valid accreditation from National Assessment and Accreditation Council with minimum CGPA of 3.26 on a 4 Point scale and has completed five years of existence.

Provided further that the HEIs that are either State or Central or State Private Universities and were given permission by the University Grants Commission to offer programmes in open and distance learning mode for the academic session 2017-18 will be allowed to impart ODL education till the academic session 2019-20 to enable them reach the prescribed quality NAAC benchmark.

Provided further, that the HEIs falling in the above category but currently not accredited with NAAC shall apply for NAAC accreditation within three months from the date of issue of this regulation.

Provided further, that this clause shall not be applicable to Open Universities till the time they become eligible for National Assessment and Accreditation Council accreditation and it shall be mandatory for Open Universities to get...
National Assessment and Accreditation Council accreditation within one year of their becoming eligible for the same.

Provided further, that an institution Deemed to be a University so declared by the Central Government shall offer the Open and Distance Learning courses or programmes as per the extant Deemed to be a University Regulations and also notified by the University Grants Commission from time to time in the matter.

Provided further that the higher education institutions which are Deemed to be Universities and were given permission by the University Grants Commission to offer programme in open and distance learning mode for the academic year 2017-18 will be permitted to impart ODL education till the academic session 2019-20 to enable them reach the prescribed quality NAAC benchmark; subject to University Grants Commission specifically allowing the Deemed to be University to conduct ODL courses for specific programmes and after the off campus centres, study centres are individually inspected and found adequate by the UGC. The approval will be course specific.

Provided further, Deemed to be Universities falling in this category and currently not accredited with NAAC shall apply for NAAC accreditation within three months from the date of issue of this regulation.

Amendment in Clause 3(2):
Present: A Higher Educational Institution intending to offer a programme in Open and Distance Learning mode for academic session immediately after the notification of these regulations and for subsequent years shall, notwithstanding that it has obtained permission from the then Distance Education Council or by the Commission for offering a programme in Open and Distance learning mode for academic session immediately after the
notification of these regulations and for subsequent years, shall make an online application in the format specified by the Commission, and upload the same on the specified portal along with scanned copy of the documents specified therein, at least six months before the commencement of the academic session of the programme intended to be offered by such Higher Educational Institution.

Amended Clause:
A Higher Educational Institution intending to offer a programme in Open and Distance Learning mode for academic session immediately after the notification of these regulations and for subsequent years shall, notwithstanding that it has obtained permission from the then Distance Education Council or by the Commission for offering a programme in Open and Distance learning mode for academic session immediately after the notification of these regulations and for subsequent years, shall make an online application in the format specified by the Commission, and upload the same on the specified portal along with scanned copy of the documents specified therein, at least six months before the commencement of the academic session of the programme intended to be offered by such Higher Educational Institution.

However, the Commission may relax this period of six months at its discretion only for the academic session July 18 - June 19.

Amendment in Clause 19(2):
The Commission observed the following anomaly in the present clause 19(2).

Present: In the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017, in regulation 19, for sub-regulation (2), the following sub-regulation shall be substituted namely:-
“(2) Certificates or Diplomas or Post Graduate Diplomas awarded by the Standalone Institutions which also have been approved by the Commission based on the policies of the then Distance Education Council of the Indira Gandhi National Open University for running Open and Distance Learning programmes till the academic year 2016-17 shall remain valid programmes in the field of Open and Distance Learning mode of education till the academic session 2017-18 and thereafter they shall be free to get converted their Standalone Institution status to University or Deemed to be University for the purpose of these Open and Distance Learning regulations, failing which, the Commission shall not accord and approval to the Open and Distance Learning programmes of Standalone Institutions”

Anomaly: The enabling clause “…to get converted their Standalone Institution status to University or Deemed to be University for the purpose…”. However Deemed to be University Regulations 2016 does not provide provision to make this clause legally valid or operational. So Deemed to be University needs to be deleted and instead a constituent unit/institute of an existing university option is to be provided.

Amended Clause

In the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017, in regulation 19, for sub-regulation (2), the following sub-regulation shall be substituted namely:-

“(2) Certificates or Diplomas or Post Graduate Diplomas awarded by the Standalone Institutions which also have been approved by the Commission based on the policies of the then Distance Education Council of the Indira Gandhi National Open University for running Open and Distance Learning programmes till the academic year 2016-17 shall remain valid programmes in the field of Open and Distance Learning mode of education till the academic
session 2017-18 and thereafter they shall be free to get converted their Standalone Institution status to University or constituent unit/institute of an existing university for the purpose of these Open and Distance Learning regulations, failing which, the Commission shall not accord any approval to the Open and Distance Learning programmes of Standalone Institutions”.

New Clause to be added: Clause 21. Removal of difficulty

UGC reserves the right to remove difficulty/difficulties in the course of implementation of these Regulations in consultation with the Government of India / Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Overall decision:

Commission decided that above amendments with the concurrence of the MHRD shall be notified in the Gazette and thereafter calendar for recognition of HEIs for the academic year beginning July, 2018 shall be notified. The applications received as per already notified Regulations shall not be processed and the applicants shall be asked to apply again as per the amended Regulations as and when UGC invites online applications for the academic year beginning July 2018.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

SECTION-5

(GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

5.01 To consider the issue for enhancement in the rate of maintenance of beds in respect of JNMC Hospital, Aligarh Muslim University.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CU)]
To consider the issues of Women's Studies Centres.

Considered and approved. Further, it was resolved that UGC may write to remaining 52 Women's Studies Centres that since they have not responded to the UGC communications, it is presumed that they do not require any funds and they should immediately settle their earlier accounts.

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

To report the best practices adopted by SA/BSR bureau of UGC.

Noted.

[Action: JS(SA)]

SECTION–6
(MISCELLANEOUS)

To consider certain establishment matter of University Grants Commission.

Recorded Separately.

Any Other Item:

(i) To consider revision in the UGC Guidelines for the UGC Coordinator of the visit of the UGC Expert Committee for the review of the functioning of Institutions Deemed to be Universities.

The Commission in its 515th Meeting held on 20th May, 2016 (Item No. 2.05) approved the Guidelines for the UGC Coordinator of the visit of the UGC Expert Committee for the review of the functioning of Institutions Deemed to be Universities wherein sub-para (xvi) of para 2 i.e. “Ensure that a minimum of three days are fixed for the visit of the Expert Committee” requires revision.
It was resolved that the same may be read as under:

"Ensure that a maximum of three days are fixed for the visit of the Expert Committee."

(P.K. THAKUR)  
SECRETARY

(V.S. CHAUHAN)  
CHAIRMAN