Minutes of 21st Meeting of the Governing Council held on 14.05.2026 at 10.30 a.m. at IASST, Guwahati

Members present in the meeting:

1.	**Prof. Vinod K. Singh** Institute Chair Professor IIT, Kanpur	Chairman
2.	**Prof.(Dr.) Tanuja Manoj Nesari** Director, Institute of Teaching & Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar, Gujrat (online mode)	Member
3.	**Prof. Devendra Jalihal** Director, IIT Guwahati (online mode)	Member
4.	**Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta** Vice Chancellor, Guwahati University, Guwahati (online mode)	Member
5.	**Shri Vijay Kumar, Deputy Secretary (IFD)** Representative of AS&FA, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, New Delhi.	Member
6.	**Dr. Usha Dixit** Scientist-'F' AI Division DST, Govt. of India, New Delhi (Nominee of Secretary, DST, Govt of India)	Member
7.	**Shri Ashish Dutt, Under Secretary (IFD)** Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, New Delhi.	Invitee
8.	**Dr. Prashant Dhakephalkar** Director, (Addl. Charge), IASST, Guwahati	Member Secretary

Leave of absentia was granted to:
Smti Rituparna Thakuria, Director, Directorate of Science & Technology / Joint Secretary Science Technology and Climate Change Dept.
Govt, of Assam, Guwahati (Nominee of Shri Pallav Gopal Jha, IAS).

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/1: Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Chairman, Governing Council:

Decision/Remarks:
Professor Vinod K. Singh, Chairman of the Governing Council of Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, extended a warm welcome to all members of the Governing Council on behalf of the Council and the Department of Science and Technology (DST). In his address, the Chairman expressed satisfaction and appreciation regarding the Institute's overall progress and development, particularly in the areas of infrastructure development, quality publications, and research activities.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/2.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 20th Meeting of the Governing Council held on 06.11.2025:

Decision/Remarks:
The minutes of the 20th Meeting of the Governing Council were circulated among all members, and no adverse comments were received. Accordingly, the minutes of the 20th Governing Council Meeting were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/2.2: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the 20th Meeting of the Governing Council held on 06.11.2025:

Decision/Remarks:
The Member-Secretary apprised the Council of the actions taken to implement the recommendations of the 20th Governing Council Meeting. The Council noted and approved the Action Taken Report with the following observations/recommendations:

Agenda Item No.	Matter for Deliberation/Approval	Recommendations/Deliberations
G.C.20/2025/2/2.1	Adoption of guidelines for engagement of Eminent Professor/Adjunct Professor, etc. at IASST	The Council noted the constitution of a committee for preparation of guidelines for engagement of Eminent Professor/Adjunct Professor, etc. at IASST, comprising Prof. Amalendu Chandra, IIT Kanpur as Chairman, Prof. T. Punniyamurthy, IIT Guwahati as Member, and Registrar, IASST as Member-Secretary. The Committee will draft the rules and regulations governing such engagements at IASST.
G.C.20/2025/2/2.2	Modification in Recruitment Rules of IASST	Regarding amendment of the Recruitment Rules for recruitment to the post of Director, the Council suggested that necessary action in this regard may be taken by the next permanent Director of the Institute.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/3: Matters Arising out of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Decision/Remarks:
No separate matter was raised for discussion.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/4: Presentation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2025–26 and Adoption Thereof:

Decision/Remarks:
The Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the financial year 2025–26 will be presented before the Council after obtaining certification from the Statutory Auditor of the Institute. The Council noted and adopted the same.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/5: Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2026–27 – Recurring and Non-Recurring Grants – for Consideration and Recommendation to DST:

Decision/Remarks:
The Council noted the budgetary estimate of the Institute for the financial year 2026–27 amounting to ₹59.02 crore, as reassessed by the 20th Finance Committee of the Institute. The estimate includes ₹6.03 crore earmarked for the new infrastructure development project titled "Rain Water Harvesting and Development of Drainage System at Institute Campus."

The Council further recommended an additional budgetary allocation of ₹5.62 crore during the current financial year to meet the committed liabilities of the previous year arising due to lesser allocation of Grants-in-Aid during the financial year 2025–26.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/6: Review of Financial Position, Internal Accruals, User Charges, and Steps Taken for Financial Sustainability of the Institute:

Decision/Remarks:
The Director, IASST, apprised the Governing Council of the recommendations of the 20th Finance Committee Meeting held on 13.05.2026. The Council ratified the recommendations of the Finance Committee and suggested enhancement of the quantum of Grants-in-Aid in accordance with the budget estimates submitted by the Institute.

The Council also advised that necessary steps be initiated for settlement of audit paras at the earliest.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/7: Creation/Revival/Upgradation of Posts and Recruitment/Promotion Matters (if any):

1. Promotion of Non-Academic Staff

Decision/Remarks:
The Council noted the recommendation of the Departmental Promotion Committee regarding promotion of Shri Dwijen Ch. Deka to the post of Section Officer (Administration).

2. Termination of Probation of Dr. Biswajit Chaudhury, Associate Professor-II, PSD and Dr. Ragini Bodade, Associate Professor-II, LSD

Decision/Remarks:

Committee noted the termination of probation period of Dr. Biswajit Choudhury, Asso. Prof.

However, Council examined the opinions/recommendations of the Performance Review Committee constituted for review of performance of Dr. Ragini Bodade, Asso. Prof. and observed that a probation period of one year is minimal for assessing the research progress of scientists, as research is a continuous process and often requires considerable time to achieve desired outcomes.

Accordingly, the Council suggested that the performance of Dr. Ragini Bodade, Asso. Prof. be reviewed through a separate committee and that the report be submitted in the next Governing Council Meeting for further deliberation.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/8: Progress of Ongoing Research Programmes, Major Extramural Projects, Collaborations (National/International), and New Initiatives Proposed by the Faculty:

Decision/Remarks:

Dr. Prashant Dhakephalkar, Director (Additional Charge), IASST, presented an overview of the Institute's progress in research and administration, highlighting key achievements in recent years.

The Council appreciated the progress made by the Institute and suggested restructuring of the research activities under two major divisions, namely:

- Life Science Division
- Physical Science Division

The Council suggested that the Biodiversity Section be brought under the Life Science Division and Computational Science under the Physical Science Division. The Council did not find necessity for maintaining a separate Inter-Disciplinary Cell.

The Council further opined that, in future faculty recruitment, preference may not be given to Mathematical Sciences as it does not align with the existing core divisions of the Institute.

The Council also suggested initiating collaborative research in Computational Science with IITs, IISERs, etc., with special emphasis on collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

Further, the Council suggested that the Institute approach the State Government for spreading awareness among the people of the region regarding snake venom and initiate collaborative research on snake venom with Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology.

The Council also advised the Institute to initiate necessary steps for obtaining NABL certification for research laboratories, wherever applicable.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/9: Approval of New MoUs/Collaborations and Status of Existing MoUs:

A. MoUs with Government Bodies, Private Companies, Industries, and NGOs

Decision/Remarks:
The Council noted the initiatives taken by the Institute for entering into MoUs with various organisations/institutions such as Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, Aaranyak, and Bhattadev University, and advised compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the Government of India while signing such MoUs.

B. Technology Transfer and License Agreement

Decision/Remarks:
The Council noted the Technology Transfer and License Agreement signed between IASST and Unique Biotech Limited for commercialization of the following probiotic strains:

- *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* MKTJ24
- *Levilactobacillus brevis* MKAK9

C. Memorandum of Understanding between IASST and DST for the Year 2026–27

Decision/Remarks:
The council approved the MoU to be signed and submitted to DST with a request for additional funds as approved in the Finance committee.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/10: Policy Matters/Amendments to Bye-Laws:

1. Amendment of Recruitment Rules for the Post of Director, IASST

Decision/Remarks:
The Council entrusted Dr. Prashant K. Dhakephalkar, Director (Additional Charge), IASST, with the responsibility of preparing draft amendments to the Recruitment Rules for the post of Director, IASST, and suggested submission of the draft in the next Governing Council Meeting.

2. Approval of the Technology Transfer Policy of IASST

Decision/Remarks:
The Council deliberated upon the Technology Transfer Policy of IASST and approved the same for implementation, subject to compliance with the policies of the Government of India in this regard.

3. Reconstitution of Finance Committee of IASST

Decision/Remarks:
The Council approved inclusion of Shri Prakash Hazarika, Financial Advisor, Guwahati, as a member of the Finance Committee in place of Dr. B. B. Mishra, Finance Officer, Tezpur University, consequent upon the latter's superannuation.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/11: Items Proposed by Scientists/HoDs:

Enhancing International Research Collaboration through Strategic Travel Support for Scientists

Decision/Remarks:
The Council opined that separate budgetary provision for providing travel support to scientists for exploring/enhancing international research collaborations may not be feasible.

Prof. Mojibur R. Khan, Head, LSD, IASST – Ratification of Technology Transfer

Decision/Remarks:
The Council noted the technology transfer of "Two Potential Probiotic Bacteria" to Unique Biotech Ltd., Hyderabad.

Agenda Item No. G.C.21/2026/12: Any Other Item with Permission of the Chair:

A. Proposal to Streamline GeM Procurement by Establishing a Dedicated Procurement Cell

Decision/Remarks:
The Council appreciated the initiative taken for establishment of a separate procurement cell, particularly for handling GeM procurement activities, and suggested engagement of one manpower initially through manpower service-providing agencies. The manpower strength may be enhanced later based on requirement.

B. Extension of Dr. Moloyjo Joyraj Bhattacharjee, Project Scientist, Life Sciences Division, Beyond the Existing Term of Appointment

Decision/Remarks:
The council approved the appointment and extension of tenure of Dr. Moloyjo Joyraj Bhattacharjee, Project Scientist, for additional year in continuation to the earlier appointment. His earlier term of appointment of 11 months initially was expired on 10.10.2025 and now he will be appointed for another year w.e.f. 11.10.2025. Initial date of engagement of Dr. Bhattacharjee was 11.11.2024.

C. Amendment of Recruitment Rules (RR) for Scientific Cadre to Align with Government of India RFCS Norms and Revision of Upper Age Limits for Specific Posts

i) Alignment of Residency Periods (RFCS)

Decision/Remarks:
The Council recommended implementation of the residency period as prescribed in the DoPT Office Memorandum dated 13 March 2024 for RFCS promotions.

ii) Revision of Upper Age Limits

Decision/Remarks:
For future recruitment at IASST, the Council approved the following upper age limits:

Post	Pay Level	Upper Age Limit
MTS	Pay Level 1	18–30 years
Driver	Pay Level 2	18–30 years
Assistant	Pay Level 4	18–30 years
Technician	Pay Level 5	18–30 years

D. Permission to Allow Ms. Angana Das Mohapatra, JRF, to Register under Dr. K. V. Ramesh, CSIR-NIIST

Decision/Remarks:
The Governing Council noted the proposal regarding continuation of research activities of Ms. Angana Das Mohapatra, JRF, under the supervision of Dr. K. V. Ramesh, CSIR-NIIST. IASST shall bear the fellowship amount payable to Ms. Angana during the period of her research.

E. Enhancement of maximum limit of Gratuity on reaching the Dearness Allowance rates to 50%.

The Member Secretary apprised the Committee that IASST has adopted the provisions of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 for payment of Death/Retirement Gratuity to its employees. The Committee was further informed that, consequent upon enhancement of the Dearness Allowance to 50% of basic pay, the maximum ceiling of gratuity payable to Central Government employees has been increased by 25% with effect from 01.01.2024, as notified by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare vide Office Memorandum No. 28/03/2024-P&PW(B)/Gratuity/9559 dated 30.05.2024.

In line with the aforesaid Government of India instructions, IASST has adopted the enhanced gratuity ceiling for payment of Death/Retirement Gratuity to its employees. The Governing Council approved the enhancement of the gratuity ceiling accordingly. **(new inclusion)**

As there was no other matter for discussion, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

VKSingh
(Vinod. K. Singh)
Chairman, GC, IASST

(P. K. Dhakephalkar)
Member Secretary, GC, IASST