Proceeding of Meeting under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Chancellor held on 14.05.2016 at Raj Bhavan, Patna.

A meeting of all the Vice Chancellors and Pro-Vice-Chancellors was convened under Chairmanship of the Hon’ble Chancellor on 14.05.2016 at 10:30 AM at Raj Bhavan, Patna. The list of participants is enclosed at Annexure-1.

The meeting began with lighting the Lamp of knowledge. Principal Secretary to the Hon’ble Chancellor and H.E. the Governor welcomed the Hon’ble Education Minister and all participants on behalf of the Hon’ble Chancellor. He explained the structure of the day-long meeting, so that better participation can be ensured.

Principal Secretary Dr. E.L.S.N. Bala Prasad flagged issues which were central to the meeting’s deliberations. They included compliance of directions given in the past meeting of Vice Chancellors, which included adherence to academic calendar, ensuring attendance of faculty for at least five hours a day in at least 180 days in a year, regularizing financial management and updating University accounts, establishing of a University MIS Portal, achieving NAAC Accreditation and others.

Dr. Ashok Chaudhary, Hon’ble Education Minister, Govt. of Bihar, in his keynote address expressed gratitude to the Hon’ble Chancellor for the steps initiated by the latter to improve Higher Education in Bihar.

Hon’ble Minister stated that recruitment process of faculty members has already started. However, he stated that it was of utmost important that all available faculty members engage classes for at least five hours a day and 180 days in a year. Regular presence of teachers is a must and the most critical prerequisite in the roadmap for improvement in higher education. Regular attendance of faculty members and rational utilization of their services, he stated, was non-negotiable.

Discussing issues of affiliation of B.Ed. Colleges, Hon’ble Minister stated that extreme care needs to be taken by Universities while granting affiliation to B.Ed. Colleges as numerous complaints were being received on their extremely
poor functioning. He cautioned Universities to exercise utmost due diligence while granting affiliation. It was also added that Teams would be formed by the Chancellor's Office and the Department of Education to conduct random inspections of such affiliated colleges to verify compliance of the above directions. He also observed that Universities were more involved in the matter of granting new affiliations without equal concern for verifying whether existing colleges fulfill conditions of affiliation, as there were no instances of de-affiliation.

The Hon'ble Minister highlighted the Government's possible concerns over retention of students after launch of Student Credit Card Scheme. It was not clear how it will affect student's likely preference for Bihar's Universities against outside institutions, where greater utilization of credit was possible.

He stressed the need for submitting Utilization Certificates in time, for ensuring timely distribution of salaries and for future receipt of grants. Thereby, he stated, there would be better redressal of grievances of employees in this regard. Hon'ble Minister also laid stress on strengthening University Management Information System (UMIS) for transparency in Admissions, Examinations, Results, etc.

In the end, he exhorted Vice Chancellors to take all possible steps necessary for raising the standard of Higher Education in the State.

Hon'ble Chancellor in his address, at the outset, expressed satisfaction that most universities have held Convocations in the past few months. He directed the remaining Universities to organize their Convocations at the earliest. Hon'ble Chancellor emphasized the importance of regularizing academic and examination calendars in all universities by ensuring timely admission, teaching, examination, results and distribution of degrees. Most of the problems faced by the university would automatically end if academic sessions became regular, he stressed.

Hon'ble Chancellor stressed the creation of Grievance Redressal Mechanism in each University. He directed all Vice Chancellors to form a
Grievance Redressal System in every University to ameliorate grievances of employees and students.

**Hon'ble Chancellor** also directed Vice-Chancellors to ensure attendance of teachers as well as achieve accreditation of Universities/Colleges by NAAC to ensure regular flow of funds. He also directed them to establish high quality laboratories and provide adequate research facilities. In the strongest terms, he underscored the need for financial discipline including updation of accounts.

Reiterating his earlier advice to Vice-Chancellors, the Hon'ble Chancellor asked them to double their efforts in community outreach by adopting neighbouring villages and ensuring their all round development. In the end, Hon'ble Chancellor directed that Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Vice Chancellors' should focus on fulfilling expectations of guardians and students.

After the inauguration, the next Sessions were devoted to presentations on different themes.

- **Presentation by Shri K. Senthil Kumar, Addl. Secretary, Deptt. of Education, Govt. of Bihar on MIS (Management Information System).**

  Shri Senthil Kumar highlighted the benefits of automation with regard to students, teaching-learning process, Financial Management, Examination Management, and so on. He made a detailed examination of different aspects of UMIS so that the assembled Vice Chancellors / Pro Vice Chancellors can arrive at a decision.

- **Presentation by Prof.(Dr.) Pandit Prabhakar Palande, Vice Chancellor, BRA Bihar University, Muzaffarpur on Higher Education Examination Board.**

  Vice Chancellor, BRA Bihar University observed that Universities in Bihar were carrying a huge burden of conduct of examinations and declaring results. He said formation of HEEB would free the Universities
from these activities and give them time to regularize Academic Sessions, ensure timely declaration of results and minimize expenditure.

In the discussion that followed, several Vice Chancellors cautioned against it. There was no unanimity on the subject. While some spoke about loss of autonomy, others welcomed the idea. The Vice Chancellor of Aryabhatta Knowledge University, Patna recounted the experience of his own institution, highlighting how useful the concept was. He stated that Aryabhatta Knowledge University, Patna conducted examinations for different technical courses such as MBBS and Engineering, thereby ridding respective institutions of the burden of conducting exams, leading to adherence to the academic calendar.

Since a consensus could not emerge on formation of the HEEB, it was unanimously decided to organize a workshop on this issue and decide the future course of action.

Presentations:

- Presentation by Prof. Y.C. Simhadri, Vice Chancellor, Patna University, Patna on Academic and Examination Calendar, Regular Conduct of Classes by Teachers in University and all the Colleges and Computerization of Admission and Examination process.

  Prof. Y.C. Simhadri stressed the importance of maintaining a uniform academic calendar stipulating dates of admission, teaching, examinations, results and distribution of degrees. Ensuring discipline was the key to success, he maintained.

  After the presentation, it was unanimously decided to adhere to Academic and Examination Calendar.

- Presentation by Prof. R. K. Verma, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Patna University, Patna on Semester System under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) at UG & PG levels as per UGC guidelines.

  He explained various assumptions on which CBCS was based such as introduction of Semester System, formulation of credits and the aspect...
of flexibility in offering course options to students. The presentation sparked a lively debate on its pros and cons. Difficulties of introducing full flexibility were also discussed and it was noted that limited choice can be started within the faculty to begin with.

- **Presentation by Prof. Leela Chand Saha, Vice Chancellor, VKS University, Ara on Grievance Redressal Mechanism.**

  Prof. Saha explained the need for developing Grievance Redressal Mechanism. He posited a model based on the Ombudsman institution with a definite timeline for redressal of grievances.

- **Presentation by Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor, L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga on Updation of Accounts of Universities and Colleges.**

  Prof. Kushwaha dwelt upon a very vital aspect of University functioning. Recognizing the call for financial discipline, he detailed the various difficulties being faced by Universities due to lack of proper accounting. Hence for efficient financial management, he underscored the need for updation for accounts and explained in detail, its various aspects. The need for a central protocol and maintenance of accounting standards were emphasized. As a practical matter, he suggested that Chartered Accountant firms can be engaged instead of individual Accountants. Simultaneously, he stressed the need for training accounts staff, while also advocating the need for computerization of accounts.

- **Presentation by Prof. Rama Shankar Dubey, Vice Chancellor, T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur on NAAC Evaluation.**

  Prof. Rama Shankar Dubey, Vice Chancellor, T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur observed that accreditation exercise by NAAC facilitates the University/college to assess their performance vis-a-vis set parameters.
He stressed the need to set a time limit for completing NAAC accreditation in order to have a regular flow of funds. He urged the Vice Chancellors to recognize the different criteria involved in NAAC accreditation, while emphasizing the need to prepare SSR properly.

Presentation by Prof. Md. Ishtiyaque, Vice Chancellor, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya on Human Resource Requirement of Universities.

Prof. Ishtiyaque concentrated on HR needs in Universities, distinct from faculty positions. He sought the posting of regular, serving officers to the posts of Registrar, Financial Advisor, Finance Officer, Estate Officer, Chief Security Officer and so on. He also stressed the need to have trained personnel to manage hostels, instead of teachers doing the job.

Thereafter, there was an Interactive Session, in which discussions were centered around identified concerns as well as other issues deemed important to the participants. During the Interactive Session, several issues were raised. The Vice-Chancellor of Magadh University, Bodhgaya raised the issue of direct appointment of Professors and Assistant Professors. The Pro Vice-Chancellor, KSD Sanskrit University, Darbhanga pointed out the need for constituting a Cell to deal with cases of sexual harassment in line with Government directions and Supreme Court rulings. The Vice Chancellor of Nalanda Open University sought intervention of Government and the Chancellor’s Office for allotment of UGC stipulated 40 acres of land as against its current ownership of 10 acres. He also sought sanction of posts in his University. The Chancellor’s office and the Education Department assured them of due consideration on those issues:

Principal Secretary to the Hon’ble Chancellor summed the day’s deliberations and placed contentious issues before the House for reaching a decision on each of them.

1. Introduction of University Management Information System (UMIS). All the Vice Chancellors were unanimous in their views in support of
developing the UMIS at the earliest. Its early introduction was requested from the Department of Education, Government of Bihar.

2. In the light of introduction of Universal Student Credit Card, concerns were expressed about possible students exodus to institutions outside the State, so that students can utilize a larger amount of credit. It was seen that given the fee structure in Bihar’s Universities, utilization would be a lot lower if enrolled here. It was decided that there is an urgent need to revisit the University fee structure, notwithstanding difficulties faced by Mahila Colleges due to recent announcement of Government regarding waiver of fees.

3. The humanitarian need to retain provision of Inter University transfers of teachers was recognized while also noting the difficulties faced by Universities other than Patna University and Magadh University. Since nearly all cases fell under the humanitarian category or similar reasons, the Vice Chancellors were of the opinion that Inter University Transfers could be considered provided the transferring faculty member was ready to forgo his seniority in the new University. It was decided to send a proposal to the Education Department, Govt. of Bihar for amending the Act to that extent.

4. Affiliation of B.Ed. Colleges had been temporarily halted for sometime now. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to allow affiliation of B.Ed. Colleges by Universities by scrupulously following the rules. Considering the complaints, largely related to the question of faculty in such institutions, Universities were cautioned to exercise utmost care and due diligence in inspecting such institutions for the purpose of granting affiliation. Particular care was to be paid to the issue of faculty, so that it would not be possible for any such B.Ed. College to either provide details of non-existent faculty, or details of faculty working elsewhere and being shown on their rolls, or any other manner in which the requirement of having adequate trained faculty was sought to be bypassed or avoided. The Universities were warned that they shall bear full responsibility and face consequences should any B.Ed. institution be found to be not
fulfilling any of the mandatory requirements. They were also informed that teams would be formed by the Chancellor’s Secretariat and the Department of Education to conduct random inspection of Colleges which have received affiliation.

5. After a detailed discussion, it was decided to adopt Choice-Based-Credit-System although with limited flexibility and choice. To begin with, it would be based on common syllabi, and limited within faculty.

6. In the absence of lack of consensus on Higher Education Examination Board, it was decided to accept the offer of Nalanda Open University for conducting a day long Workshop on HEEB and thereby gain more clarity on the subject.

In addition to the above, during the day long deliberations, the Universities were directed to ensure compliance on several counts. Specifically, they were directed

a) To ensure attendance of faculty members for at least five hours everyday in at least 180 days in a year. Registrars of the Universities would be required to send fax report of faculty members who were absent without permission, everyday to the Chancellor’s Secretariat and the Department of Education, Government of Bihar.

b) To draw up an academic calendar in every University, covering all aspects concerning students education such as admissions, conduct of classes, examinations, declaration of results and distribution of degrees within time.

c) Universities and Colleges were directed to update their accounts within three months and enforce financial discipline. For this process, they were permitted to engage accounting firms if they required.

d) To ensure accreditation of all Colleges and the Universities by NAAC. They were directed to fix deadlines and prepare a timeline for NAAC Accreditation.
e) To develop Centre of Excellence in each faculty, create infrastructure for them and post good faculty there. They were also directed to develop laboratories and workshops with adequate and modern equipment.

f) To calculate faculty vacancies up to 31st March, 2016 and send requisition after duly observing roster system, to the Department of Education. Universities were also directed to prepare a database of all faculty members who were on lien, barring public representatives. They were directed to take legal action against those overstaying their lien period. To start with a warning letter was to be issued to such faculty members.

g) To constitute Grievance Redressal Committee to be headed by Vice-Chancellor or Pro Vice-Chancellor in each University. Universities were also directed to ensure proper functioning of the Committees relating to students' welfare and pensions.

h) Nalanda Open University and MMH Arabic & Persian University were reminded of their responsibility to setup Distance Education Centres among the 240 blocks which had no higher education centre.

i) To ensure regular conduct of Syndicate, Senate, Academic Council and all other statutory bodies as per the periodicity prescribed in the Act and Statutes. They were directed to send reports of such meetings to the Chancellor’s Secretariat.

j) To encourage and increase the gamut of activities in NCC and NSS in Universities and Colleges. They were reminded of earlier directions to increase community outreach by adopting villages for developmental purposes.

k) To complete the process of examining all appointments in affiliated colleges, made before 19.04.2007 without recommendation of University Service Commission, Universities were reminded of completing the above exercise before 31.03.2017 as per 2015 amendment to the Bihar State Universities Act.
In the last session, by way of concluding remarks, Hon'ble Education Minister stressed the need for discipline in the Universities and also warned Vice-Chancellors of serious repercussions in case of non-compliance of the norms prescribed for affiliating B.Ed. colleges.

Hon'ble Chancellor, expressed satisfaction on the day-long Meeting and complimented participants for the structured and constructive discussion. Emphasizing the need of Swachhta Abhiyan, Banlization, Adoption of Village, etc. by the University, Hon'ble Chancellor desired that Vice-Chancellors should work for the improvement of education in University and hoped that they will show substantial improvement in the near future.

The meeting ended with Officer on Special Duty (Judicial) proposing a vote of thanks.

Issued with H.E.'s approval,

(Dr. E.L.S.N. Bala Prasad)
Principal Secretary to Governor
Bihar, Patna.

Dated- 19-05-2016

Memo No. BSU-14/2015-953 /GS(I).

Copy forwarded to-
1. All the Vice Chancellors of Universities of Bihar for information and to ensure compliance of the resolution of the meeting.
2. Principal Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Bihar for information and necessary action.

Principal Secretary to Governor
Bihar, Patna.
Annexure-1

The following dignitaries were present in the meeting of the Vice-Chancellors' & Pro-Vice-Chancellors' dated 14.05.2016 at 10:30 A.M. at Raj Bhavan, Patna:–

1. Dr. Ashok Chaudhary, Hon’ble Education Minister, Govt. of Bihar.
2. Dr. E.L.S.N. Bala Prasad, Principal Secretary to H.E. the Governor-cum-Chancellor.
3. Sri K. Senthil Kumar, Additional Secretary, Department of Education, Govt. of Bihar.
4. Prof. Ydela C. Simhadri, Vice Chancellor, Patna University, Patna.
5. Prof. Pandit Prabhakar Palande, Vice Chancellor, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur.
6. Prof. Binod Kumar, Vice Chancellor, B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura.
7. Prof. Rashbihari Prasad Singh, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda Open University, Patna.
8. Shri Lokesh Chandra Prasad, Vice Chancellor, Jai Prakash University, Chapra.
9. Prof. Dev Narayan Jha, Vice Chancellor, K.S.D. Sanskrit University, Darbhanga.
10. Prof. S. Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor, L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga.
11. Prof. Md. Istitiyaque, Vice Chancellor, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya.
12. Prof. Ejaz Ali Arshad, Vice Chancellor, MMH Arabic & Persian University, Patna.
13. Prof. Rama Shankar Dubey, Vice Chancellor, T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur.
14. Prof. Leela Chand Saha, Vice Chancellor, Veer Kunwar Singh University, Ara.
15. Dr. Arun Kumar Agrawal, Vice Chancellor, Arya Bhatt Knowledge University, Patna
16. Dr. Neelima Sinha, Pro-Vice Chancellor, K.S.D. Sanskrit University, Darbhanga.
17. Dr. Syed Mumtazuddin, Pro-Vice Chancellor, L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga.
18. Prof. Kriteswar Prasad, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya.
19. Prof. Md. Tauquir Alam, Pro-Vice Chancellor, MMH Arabic & Persian University, Patna.
20. Dr. Ram Prakash Upadhaya, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Nalanda Open University, Patna.
21. Prof. Ranjit Kumar Verma, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Patna University, Patna.
22. Prof. (Dr.) Awadh Kishore Roy, Pro-Vice Chancellor, T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur.
23. Dr. (Smt.) Parbha Kiran, Pro-Vice Chancellor, B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur.
24. Dr. JPN Jha, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BN Mandal University, Madhepura.
25. Sri Khalid Mirza, Director, Higher Education.
27. Sri Arshad Aziz, Joint Secretary, Governor' Secretariat, Raj Bhavan, Patna.
28. Sri Krishendra Kumar, Special Officer (U), Governor' Secretariat, Raj Bhavan, Patna.
29. Sri Ahmad Mahmood, OSD (U), Governor' Secretariat, Raj Bhavan, Patna.