

Minutes of the 14th Governing Council Meeting of NISE held on December 14, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Secretary MNRE and President NISE.

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) was held on December 14, 2023, in hybrid mode under the Chairmanship of Sh. Bhupinder S. Bhalla, Secretary, MNRE and President NISE. A list of members, who attended the meeting is given at Annexure-I along with the mode of joining.

2. At the outset, Dr. Sangita M. Kasture, Director General, NISE welcomed the Chairman and all members of the Governing Council. She appraised the members about NISE. The meeting started with a formal introduction of the members of the Governing Council.

3. Shri Bhupinder S. Bhalla, Secretary MNRE and Chairman of Governing Council, NISE also welcomed the members. Thereafter, with the permission of the Chairman, the Member Secretary presented the Item-wise Agenda of the meeting to the members. Agenda item-wise discussions held and decisions taken are as follows:

Agenda Item No. 1.0	To grant leave of absence to the Members, not present in the meeting.
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The leave of absence was granted to the following members as they could not attend the meeting:

- Dr. Ashish Garg, Professor, IIT Kanpur.
- Prof. Hiranmay Saha, Visiting Professor, IEST, Shibpur

Decision

The Governing Council granted the leave of absence to the above members.

Agenda Item No. 2.0	Confirmation of minutes of 13th GC held on December 1, 2022.
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Member Secretary, GC informed that the minutes of the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of NISE held on December 1, 2022, were circulated to all members and no comments were received.

Decision

The GC confirmed the minutes of the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council held on December 1, 2022.

V. K. Ash

Agenda Item No. 3.0	Presentation About NISE
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Dr. Jai Prakash, Deputy Director General, NISE gave a presentation, "Updates on R&D and technical activities and achievements of NISE". The presentation, focused on key R&D & solar product development activities ongoing at NISE. The activities included Secondary Reference solar cell, Solar Potential analysis, Secondary life PV modules, AC micro-grid, and Solar cooker & dryer. He also presented the active engagement of NISE in Technical Consultancy, Skill Development & Training and implementation of various MNRE's schemes. Revenue generation from various technical activities was also presented.

Recommendations/ Decision

The GC made a note of the presentation and gave following suggestions/comments:

- NISE should focus on increasing the technical activities and revenue. Accordingly, adequate manpower should be recruited.
- NISE should collaborate with industry for the development and commercialization of the solar based products. Communication to be sent to PSU's.
- NISE to provide a report on the comparison of AC and DC Microgrids.
- NISE has huge potential for providing technical Consultancy and know-how. Therefore, the focus should be on increasing technical consultancy activities by engaging the required contractual manpower to support the activities.
- NISE should contact various solar industries (manufacturing, & plant owner) to provide customized training for upskilling their workforce.
- NISE to work towards the commercialization of the patents.

Agenda Item No. 4.0	Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the 13th Governing Council meeting held on December 1, 2022.
4.1 Submission of Audited Annual Accounts and draft Annual Report of NISE for the year 2021-22	

Member Secretary, GC, informed the GC accorded its approval to the Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2021-22 and Annual Report of NISE for 2021-22 and recommended the same for placing before the 6th AGM for adoption.

After the adoption of the Annual Report of NISE along with the Audited Accounts of the NISE for FY 2021-22 in the 6th AGM held on December 1, 2022, the same was laid on the table of both the houses of Parliament on 22.12.2022 (Lok Sabha) and 20.12.2022 (Rajya Sabha), respectively.

Decision

The GC noted the matter.

4.2 Re-designation of Posts of Office Secretary/Office Secretary-I to Finance/Accounts Officer and Sr. Accountants

Member Secretary, GC informed that a proposal for the surrender of existing posts of Office Secretary & Office Secretary-I as matching savings for the creation of new posts of Finance & Account Officer & Assistant Account Officer with a new set of RRs has been submitted to the Programme Division of MNRE for consideration & seeking approval of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

The process is under progress for submission to Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Decision

The GC noted the matter.

New Agenda Items for approval of Governing Council

Agenda Item No. 5.0

Submission of Audited Annual Accounts and draft Annual Report of NISE for the year 2022-23

The Annual accounts of NISE along with the Statutory Auditors Report for the Financial Year 2022-23 have been audited and finalized by the statutory auditor i.e. M/s Rohit KC Jain & Co.

Member Secretary, GC informed that The Finance Committee of NISE has approved the Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2022-23 in its 15th meeting held on 19.10.2023. The draft Annual Report and Annual Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2022-23 were placed before the GC for its approval and recommendation to AGM for adoption in its 7th meeting to be held on 14.12.2023

Decision

The GC accorded its approval to the Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2022-23 and with the addition of the president and DG's message in the Annual Report of NISE for 2022-23. Recommended the same for placing before the 7th AGM for adoption.

Agenda Item No. 6.0

Confirmation of Assistant Directors (Tech.) in NISE (Pay Level-10 as per 7th CPC)

Member Secretary, GC informed that a Departmental Promotion Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhupinder S. Bhalla, President NISE and Secretary MNRE, recommended the confirmation of all the six officers from their respective due dates.

Sl. No.	Name (s) of Officer Sh./Mrs./Ms./Dr.	Mode of Recruitment	Date of Joining	Date of completion of the probationary period
1.	Vikrant Yadav	Direct Recruitment	25-02-2020(AN)	24-02-2022
2.	Yogendra Singh	Direct Recruitment	25-02-2020(AN)	24-02-2022
3.	Arup Dhar	Direct Recruitment	28-02-2020(FN)	27-02-2022
4.	Kamlesh Yadav	Direct Recruitment	25-02-2020(AN)	24-02-2022
5.	Nikhil PG	Direct Recruitment	02-03-2020(AN)	01-03-2022
6.	Anish Malan	Direct Recruitment	28-02-2020(FN)	27-02-2022

Submitted for soliciting the approval of Governing Council for confirmation of services of 06 Assistant Directors (Tech.), NISE as recommended by DPC.

Decision

The GC accorded its approval for confirmation of services of 06 Assistant Directors (Tech.), NISE as recommended by DPC.

Agenda Item No. 7.0	Construction of Quarters
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Member Secretary, GC presented before the committee the need for the construction of Staff Quarters within the campus of NISE. He also informed that CPWD submitted an estimate of Rs. 29.03 crores for the construction of staff quarters at NISE campus. NISE would like to finalize the issue with CPWD on a deposit work basis in FY 2024-25. Suitable demand in capital grants will be raised at the BE/ RE stage. The Finance Committee granted the in-principle approval in its 15th meeting held on 19.10.2023 and directed to place the same before the upcoming GC for approval.

Decision

The GC accorded its approval for the Construction of 31 Staff Quarters with an estimated cost of Rs. 29.03 crores at NISE campus.

Agenda item No. 8.0	Approval to issue Purchase Orders for two (02) single-bid global tenders under the DST-funded Secondary Reference Solar Cell Project.
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Member Secretary, GC informed that, an approval for Global Tender Enquiry (GTE) was taken from the competent authority for procurement of two equipment, i.e., Minority Carrier Lifetime Tester and IV-cum-LIR Tester under a DST funded project for the Development of large area secondary reference solar cell.

In spite of given enough time for submitting the bids, the institute received only one bid against each Global Tender Enquiry for two equipment. The member secretary also informed the Committee that the tendering process done two times and received single bid in each occasions.

He also informed that there was no violation of the Rule 173 (XX) of GFR 2017. He added that as per Sl. No. 23 of DoP of NISE any single tender procurement costing more than INR 1.0 Cr., GC is the approving authority. Submitted for soliciting approval of GC for issuing purchase orders to M/s Sinton Instruments, USA, and M/s Photo Emission Tech. Inc. for supply, installation, and commissioning of Minority Carrier Lifetime Tester and IV-cum-LIR Tester.

Decision

The GC accorded its approval for issuing purchase orders to M/s Sinton Instruments, USA for the supply, installation, and commissioning of the Minority Carrier Lifetime Tester.

In case of IV-cum-LIR Tester, the President suggested to submit detail technical and cost justification being a single tender inquiry.

As this purchase is linked to a time-bound project funded by DST, the GC decided that the final approval may be taken from the President of NISE with the submission of proper cost justification.

Agenda item No. 9.0	Modification in the organization structure of NISE for inclusion of a certification division, which will enable NISE to become a certification body for solar products
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Member Secretary, GC informed that to become a certification body, NISE needs to go for ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation, which requires that certification activities be structured and managed to safeguard impartiality in operations (clause 5.1 of ISO/IEC 17065). To fulfill this mandatory requirement, the certification division in NISE should be independent, directly reporting to the head of the institute, i.e., DG, NISE. The same should be reflected in the organizational structure of NISE. Accordingly the structure was proposed before GC and same is provided in Annexure II.

Decision

The GC accorded its approval for the addition of a certification division to the existing organizational structure of NISE.

Agenda Item No. 10.0	Decision on fund received from IREDA for creation of World Renewable Energy Museum and creation of IREDA-NISE Award on Solar Energy
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Member Secretary, GC informed that NISE received two different funds from IREDA for the creation of the World Renewable Energy Museum and the creation of the IREDA-NISE Award on Solar Energy.

The status of these funds as of 31.03.2023 is as follows:

Sr. No.	Particular	Fund Received	Interest earned till 31.03.2023
1	World Museum	Rs. 2,66,55,548/-	Rs. 90,21,772/-
2	IREDA – NISE Award	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	Rs. 29,76,411/-
	Total	Rs. 3,66,55,548/-	Rs. 1,19,98,183/-

The matter about the utilization of the above-said funds was discussed in the Finance Committee in its 15th meeting held on 19.10.2023. FC directed to consult IREDA for better utilization of this fund.

It is proposed to receive suggestions from the members of GC for better utilization of the fund so that the same may be further discussed with IREDA.

Decision

✓ The GC suggested that the NISE may discuss the matter with IREDA and modify the purpose of utilization of the funds.

Agenda Item No. 11.0	Revision of Delegation of Administrative and Financial Powers of DDGs of NISE
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Member Secretary, GC informed that the Delegation of Administrative and Financial Powers (DoP) of NISE was approved in the 2nd meeting of the Governing Council held on 25 November 2014. Given operational requirements, the DoP needs to be reviewed to bring more clarity to the delegated powers for the smooth functioning of official work. FC in its 15th meeting held on 19.10.2023 reviewed the DoP w.r.t. DDGs of NISE and approved the proposed DoP.

The revised Delegation of Administrative and Financial Powers of DDGs of NISE is placed before the Governing Council for consideration and approval.

Decision

✓ The GC accorded its approval to the revised Delegation of Administrative and Financial Powers of DDGs of NISE while excluding the serial numbers 6,8 and 9 of the proposed DoP.

Agenda Item No. 12.0	Creation of one Sr. Director & one Director in the Administrative and finance Wings of NISE
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Member Secretary, GC informed that the C&AG Audit party during an audit of NISE held in May 2023 took cognizance of 'Cabinet Note & MNRE's Order' for setting up NISE and issued Audit Para No. #6 which states that:

Administrative and finance sections would be headed by the officers with administrative and financial backgrounds in the Pay Scale of Rs. 37,400-67,000 with PB4 and Grade Pay of Rs. 8,700.

Accordingly, the proposal was sent to the Programme Division MNRE vide NISE letter dated 04.09.2023. Further, PD MNRE approved the 01 post of Sr. Director and 01 post of Director in Administrative & Finance Wings of NISE vide their letter No. 354/4/2023-NSM dated 18.09.2023.

Finance Committee in its 15th meeting held on 19.10.2023 granted the in-principle approval to the above proposal for strengthening the administrative cadre of NISE.

Submitted for soliciting approval of GC for the creation of one post of Sr. Director (at the pay level-13 of 7th CPC) and one post of Director (at the pay level-12 of 7th CPC) for Administrative & Finance Wings of NISE

Decision

✓ The GC accorded its approval to the proposal.

Agenda Item No. 13.0	Creation of one post of Junior Hindi Translator in NISE
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NISE has a total of 40 sanctioned posts of regular staff. However, out of these 40 posts, none of the posts is sanctioned for the Official Language cadre. Further, it is submitted that in compliance with guidelines issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, NISE must have at least one post of Hindi Officer for implementing official language in the day-to-day official work of NISE as per annual program issued by MHA and MNRE's letter's point No. 11. Post of Junior Hindi Translator in Pay Level-6 of 7th CPC (Rs.35,400- 1,12,400) is essential for ensuring the compliance of Official Language rules and for smooth functioning of official language division of NISE. Finance Committee in its 15th meeting held on 19.10.2023 granted the in-principle approval to the above proposal for strengthening the administrative cadre of NISE.

Submitted for soliciting approval of GC for the Creation of one post of Junior Hindi Translator (at the Pay Level-6 of 7th CPC) in NISE.

Decision

The GC accorded its approval with a change in the name of the post to junior translator officer.

Agenda item No. 14.0	Allowing flexibility in travel/accommodation-related entitlement norms for revenue-generating activities, such as consultancy and ALMM
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Member Secretary, GC informed that the majority of the consultancy work involves traveling (Air, Rail, and Road) and visiting the field with instruments outside the city. In certain locations it would be difficult to get accommodation/taxi services and, sometimes the rates might exceed the entitlements as per prevailing rules.

Submitted for soliciting the approval of the Governing Council for the Drafting of separate norms for

- Accommodation and TA entitlements for revenue-generating activities, such as ALMM, consultancy projects, and especially field-testing activities.
- Providing a field allowance may be considered for the visiting officials working in the field conditions.

The requirement of an accidental policy allowance/scheme for all the officials (Regular and non-regular) involved in such activities may be considered.

Decision

The GC decided that the accommodation and TA entitlements should be as per the Government of India rules.

Agenda Item No. 15.0	Any other item with the approval of the Chairman of the Governing Council.
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GC suggested that, while preparing the agenda for the next GC, the items for the information of GC should be kept at the end, followed by the "Any other item"

Agenda Items for information to Governing Council	
Agenda item No. 16.0	Status of Court Cases

Member Secretary, GC informed that presently 06 cases are pending and 02 cases have been disposed of during the year in the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana, Chandigarh.

Decision

The GC noted the matter.

Agenda item No. 17.0	Status of Recruitment of NISE
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Member Secretary, GC informed that there are 40 sanctioned posts at NISE, out of which 23 Technical/Scientific and 5 Administrative positions are filled and the recruitment process is in progress for 09 posts (7 Technical/Scientific and 2 Administrative). A proposal for re-designation for 03 posts has been submitted to MNRE for further consideration and approval of D/Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Decision

The GC noted the matter.

Agenda item No. 18.0	Collaboration Between the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad
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Member Secretary, GC informed that NISE and NRSC are actively engaged in formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a primary focus on synergizing geospatial technology and solar energy.

The collaborative efforts seek to capitalize on the strengths of both entities - NISE's proficiency in solar energy research and NRSC's specialized knowledge in geospatial technology. By harnessing the collective expertise, this partnership aims to contribute significantly to the sustainable development of solar energy, aligning closely with India's overarching ambition of achieving a net-zero status.

In terms of financial commitment, the Total Project Cost attributed to NISE amounts to 2.46 crore, covering a span of three years. This budget is predominantly allocated for accessing essential platforms, and manpower resources, and covering overhead charges associated with the collaborative endeavors.

Decision

The GC noted the matter

Agenda item No. 19.0	Investment in Corpus Fund
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Member Secretary, GC informed that as per the guidelines for investment in Corpus Fund, NISE is investing to its corpus fund since FY 2018-19. NISE has created a Corpus Fund amounting Rs. 18.37 Cr. (including Rs. 4.65 Cr. To be invested after adoption of audited annual accounts by 7th AGM for the FY 2022- 23) till March 31, 2023.

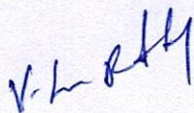
Decision

The GC noted the matter

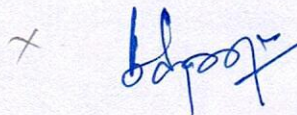
4. In addition to the deliberations on each Agenda Item, the Chairman and other Committee members provided some general comments and suggestions which are mentioned below:

- RAC should include more external experts from reputed R&D institutes.
- Chairmen GC suggested that the current lab requirement of NISE can be met from the existing lab space with renovation of civil infrastructure (if required). Future lab space requirements may be re-assessed considering the planned expansion. The process for building the same should be initiated, accordingly.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all members.



(Siva Reddy V)
Member Secretary

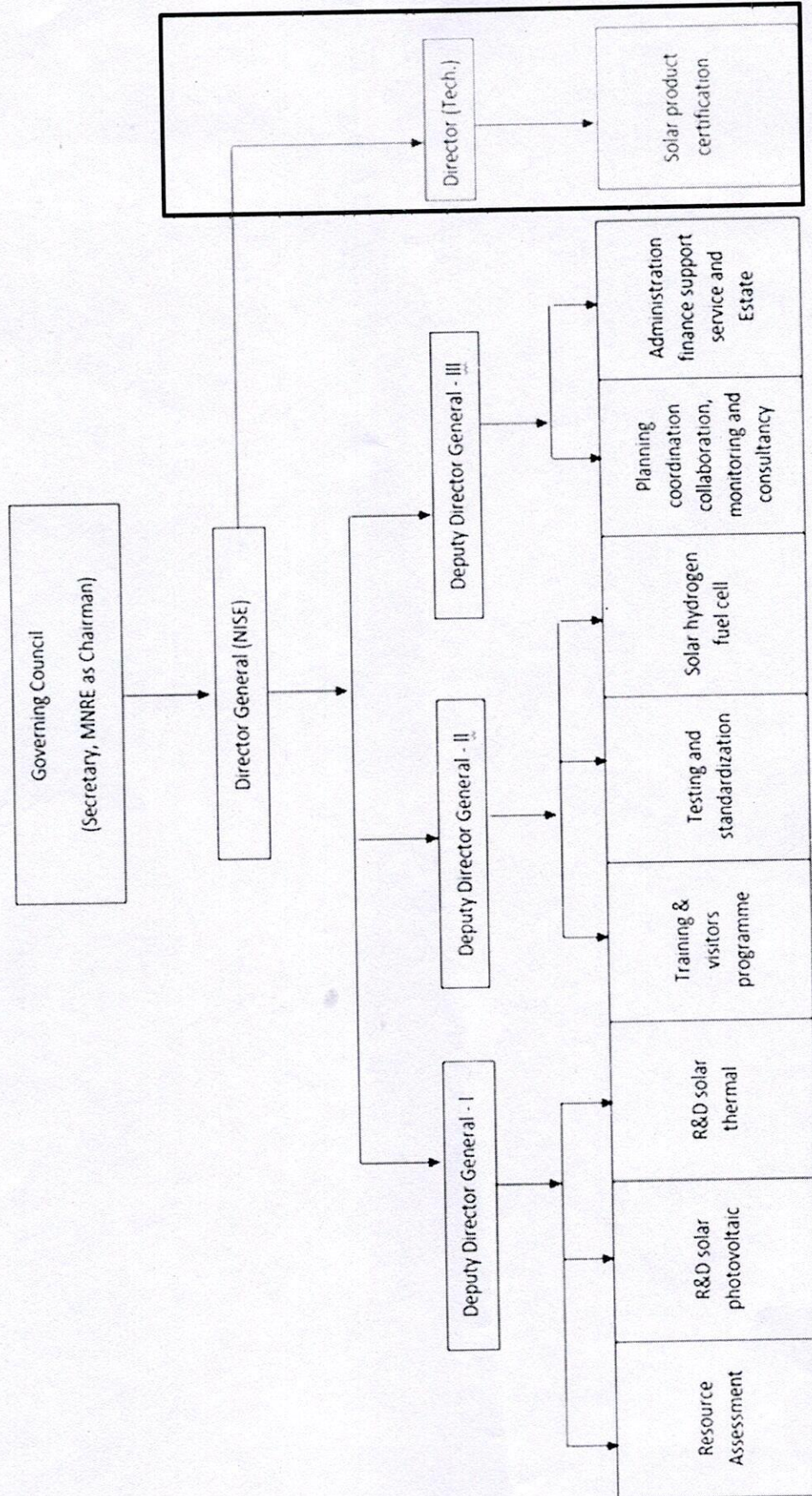


(Bhupinder S. Bhalla)
(Chairman & President NISE)

Annexure-I

List of members who attended the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of NISE, held on December 14, 2023.

Sl. No.	Name, Designation & Organization	Status	Mode of Joining
1	Shri Bhupinder S. Bhalla, Secretary MNRE	President of the Society and Chairman (Ex-officio)	Physical
2	Shri Padam Lal Negi, JS&FA, MNRE	Member (Ex-officio)	Physical
3	Shri Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale, JS (Solar), MNRE	Member (Ex-officio)	Physical
4	Shri Dilip Nigam Advisor (Solar), MNRE	Member (Ex-officio)	Physical
5	Shri Sanjay Sharma, Nominee of Managing Director, SECI	Member	On-line
6	Shri B. A. Sawale, DG, CPRI	Member	On-line
7	Shri Narendra Nath Veluri, CEO, ANERT	Member	On-line
8	Shri Ajit Bhadu, Nominee of DG, HAREDA	Member	On-line
9	Shri Ashish Khanna, CEO & MD, Tata Power Solar Systems Limited	Member	On-line
10	Dr. Dharmappa Barki, Vice President (Solar), Greenko Renewable	Member	Physical
11	Dr. Sangita M. Kasture Director General, NISE	Member (Ex-officio)	Physical
12	Dr. Chandan Banerjee Dy. Director General-I , NISE	Member	Physical
13	Dr. Jai Prakash Dy. Director General-II , NISE	Member	Physical
14	Dr. Sushil Kumar Chief Scientist & Professor (AcSIR), CSIR-NPL	Member	On-line
15	Dr. Shaibal K Sarkar Associate Professor (Solar PV), IIT Bombay	Member	On-line
16	Dr. Vineet Saini, Scientist 'F', DST	DST Nominee	On-line
17	Dr. Siva Reddy V Director (Technical), NISE	Member Secretary	Physical



Verdict