

**DHIRUBHAI AMBANI  
INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY  
GANDHINAGAR**

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**The Twenty-Second meeting of the Board of Governors was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at 4 pm in a hybrid mode, at DA-IICT, Gandhinagar.**

The following members were present:

1. Ms. Tina Ambani, in Chair, through video conference
2. Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti, through video conference
3. Ms. Mona Khandhar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat, through video conference
4. Professor Tridip Suhrud, through video conference
5. Professor Bimal Kumar Roy, through video conference
6. Ms. Alpna J Doshi, through video conference
7. Dr. Alok Nath De, through video conference
8. Shri Shrikant Kulkarni, through video conference
9. Shri Shrenik Vaishnav
10. Professor (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay, Director, DA-IICT
11. Professor Maniklal Das, Dean (Faculty), DA-IICT
12. Professor Bhaskar Chaudhury, Dean (Academic Programs), DA-IICT

Non-Member Secretary: Shri Siddharth Swaminarayan, Executive Registrar, through video conference

President Ms. Tina Ambani, welcomed all the members and briefed about the broad agenda items to be considered in this meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 1**

**To grant leave of absence, if any**

The Chairperson noted and granted leave of absence to the following members.

1. Ms. Sunaina Tomar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Education Department, Government of Gujarat
2. Shri Punit Garg
3. Shri Anmol Ambani

## **Agenda Item No. 2**

**To confirm the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on January 27, 2024.**

The Board was informed that no remarks/observations were received from the members on the minutes of the above-referred meeting, circulated earlier.

The members confirmed the minutes.

## **Agenda Item No. 3: To note the enactment of the Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (Amendment) Act, 2024 [DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024]**

Members perused the detailed notes attached with the agenda, especially, the salient features, principal changes like change of the name of the university from Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology to Dhirubhai Ambani University and enabling the university to transform into a Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU) as envisaged under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Ms. Mona Khandhar, Principal Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat suggested to introduce technology focussed academic programmes in Semiconductor/VLSI Design, Quantum Computing, Data Security, Cyber Security, etc., which are thrust areas identified by the Government of India/Gujarat. As a Centre of Excellence (CoE), the University should pursue collaborative educational and training programmes with other educational institutes and relevant industries (on a hub and spoke model).

Professor Bandyopadhyay responded and highlighted that recognizing the need for talent in the upcoming semiconductor industry, especially in the State of Gujarat, the institute has already introduced a B.Tech. program in Electronics and VLSI Design, which is now in its second year. He further added that the institute will work on her suggestions.

Professor Tridip Suhrud suggested to design innovative training programs, spread over 8 to 10 weekends, by the School of Law for working professionals, practicing lawyers on contemporary issues such as newly enacted legal framework for criminal laws i.e. Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bhartiya Nagrik Surakhsha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bhartiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA). He further suggested that the School of Law can publish impact analysis of various judgments / legal developments on a weekly basis. Professor Dadhich, Director of School of Law will be requested to have a one-on-one meeting with Professor Suhrud to have a detailed discussion in this matter.

Professor Suhrud also suggested to strengthen DA-IICT's design education programs by introducing information technology based innovative design programs involving creative and practicing professionals in designing and delivering such programmes. He further added that DAU should consider establishing a School of Design by offering first-grade design programs for a focused batch of 60 students. Professor Bandyopadhyay noted the suggestions and briefed the Board that DA-IICT is thoroughly reviewing its existing M. Des. Programme to make it more relevant and to attract more aspirants. He also informed that DA-IICT is working on shaping a new M. Des. Programme in Intelligent Experience Design and is planning to announce two weekend short term courses on (i) Humanizing Technology with Phygital Products; and (ii) Intelligent UX; Designing with the help of AI.

Ms. Alpa Doshi suggested to explore possibilities of designing courses in Artificial Intelligence in Law and International Taxation Laws. She also highlighted need for exploring collaboration with global universities and actively seeking opportunities for faculty and student exchange.

The Board placed on record its appreciation and gratitude for valuable support and guidance extended by the senior leadership and government officers in the Higher & Technical Education Department and other departments of the Government of Gujarat, in completing a complex legislative process of DA-IICT Act Amendment, in a timely and effective manner.

With the approval of the President, discussion on the Agenda Item-4, mentioned below, was taken up ahead of the Agenda Item-3, as some of the members, who were attending the meeting in a virtual mode, were in transit at the airport or in a road travel and had requested for taking up the Agenda Item-4 prior to the Agenda Item-3.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

#### **To appoint Director General pursuant to the provisions of the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024.**

(During the discussion on this Agenda item, Professor (Dr.) Bandyopadhyay left the Board Room)

The Board was apprised about amendments to the DA-IICT Act, 2003 which were effectuated vide DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024. It was highlighted that consequent upon amendment to DA-IICT Act, 2003, Section 9 of the DA-IICT Act, 2003 stands amended in keeping with the emerging multidisciplinary nature of the university. Vide this amendment a university level position of 'Director General' has been created and the amendment also recognized the fact that university will have multiple Directors each leading a Higher Education Institution / a School corresponding to a discipline.

It was further highlighted that the Dhirubhai Ambani University (DAU) will be taking steps towards becoming a multidisciplinary university over next few years by adding different disciplines such as law, management, etc. This will entail shaping a strategy and plans for the new schools to be added; building an integrated infrastructure at the DAU Campus and offering interdisciplinary courses.

The Board was then briefed about the transformation agenda being pursued and progress made in that regard by Prof. (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay as the Director of DA-IICT, since his appointment in November 2023, pursuant to the provisions of DA-IICT Act, 2003.

Given that over the next 2 years or so, predominantly DAU will have DA-IICT (i.e. School of Technology) as the main operational institution and given Prof (Dr.) Bandyopadhyay's long & rich experience and transformational agenda pursued by him, it was proposed that Prof. (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay be entrusted with the responsibility of 'Director General' of DAU. Further it was proposed that in addition to the role of Director General, he will continue to hold his current responsibility of Director of DA-IICT.

The Board unanimously seconded the appointment of Prof (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay as the Director General of Dhirubhai Ambani University and resolved as under:

**RESOLVED THAT** pursuant to the provisions of the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024, which has amended the name of the institution from Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (DA-IICT) to Dhirubhai Ambani University (DAU), and introduced the position of 'Director General' at the university level under Section 9 of the DA-IICT Act, 2003, the Board of Governors hereby accords its approval for the appointment of Professor (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay as the Director General of Dhirubhai Ambani University.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** this appointment shall be in accordance with Section 36 of the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024, which amended Section 34 of the DA-IICT Act, 2003, enabling the Director to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Director General until such position is formally occupied.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** in addition to the role of Director General of Dhirubhai Ambani University, Prof. (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay will continue to hold his current responsibility of Director of DA-IICT.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** any necessary communication or statutory filings to effectuate above resolutions be duly undertaken by any member of the Board of Governors and/or the Executive Registrar and/or any person authorized by the Executive Registrar in this regard.

**Agenda Item No. 5: To constitute a Board of Governors pursuant to the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024 provisions.**

The Board noted the proposed composition of the Board of Governors of Dhirubhai Ambani University to be constituted pursuant to the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act 2024 provisions. It was noted that Prof (Dr.) Tathagara Bandyopadhyay will be joining the Board as a member, in his capacity as the Director General, in addition to his membership of the Board as the Director of DA-IICT. It was further noted that Shri Nikhil (Kunal) Dalal will be joining the Board as an expert academician member nominated by the President to fill the vacancy created due to resignation of Professor Abhay Karandikar, the former Director of IIT Kanpur, consequent upon his appointment as the Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India. The Board also noted the profile of Shri Nikhil (Kunal) Dalal, which was placed for information. The Board resolved as under:

**RESOLVED THAT**, pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of the DA-IICT Act, 2003, as amended by the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024, and in line with the multidisciplinary nature of the university, the Board of Governors of the Dhirubhai Ambani University (DAU) is hereby constituted as per the composition detailed as follows:

1. President of DAU (Chairperson of the Board): Ms. Tina Anil Ambani
2. Representative of DA-IICT Society: Mr. Anmol Anil Ambani
3. Representative of DA-IICT Society: Mr. Punit Garg
4. Director General (DG): Prof. (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay
5. Director of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG: Prof. Tathagata Bandyopadhyay
6. Director of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG: Vacant
7. Dean of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG: Prof. Maniklal Das, Dean (Faculty), DA-IICT
8. Dean of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG: Prof. Bhaskar Chaudhury, Dean (Academic Programs), DA-IICT
9. Secretary, Dept. of Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Gujarat (ex-officio): Ms. Sunaina Tomar, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary – Higher and Technical Education Department
10. Secretary, Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of Gujarat (ex-officio): Ms. Mona Khandhar, IAS, Principal Secretary (I/C), Science & Technology Department
11. Expert Academician appointed by the President: Prof. Tridip Suhrud
12. Expert Academician appointed by the President: Mr. Nikhil (Kunal) Dalal
13. Expert Academician appointed by the President: Prof. Bimal Roy
14. Expert appointed by the President: Ambassador T. S. Tirumurti
15. Expert appointed by the President: Ms. Alpna Doshi

16. Expert appointed by the President: Mr. Shrenik Vaishnav
17. Industry Representative appointed by the President: Mr. Shrikant D. Kulkarni
18. Industry Representative appointed by the President: Dr. Aloknath De
19. Secretary to Board of Governors (Non-member): Mr. Siddharth Swaminarayan

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the newly constituted Board of Governors acknowledges and places on record its appreciation and gratitude for the valuable contributions made by the members of the Board of Governors of DA-IICT, who have ceased to hold office upon constitution of the Board of Governors of Dhirubhai Ambani University.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** any necessary communication or statutory filings to effectuate above resolutions be duly undertaken by any member of the Board of Governors and/or the Executive Registrar and/or any person authorized by the Executive Registrar in this regard.

**Agenda Item No. 6: To constitute the Academic Council pursuant to the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024 provisions.**

The Board noted the new composition of the Academic Council to be constituted pursuant to the provisions of the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act 2024 and resolved as under.

**RESOLVED THAT**, pursuant to the provisions of Section 14 of the DA-IICT Act, 2003, as amended by the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024, and in alignment with the emerging multidisciplinary nature of the university, the Academic Council of the Dhirubhai Ambani University (DAU) is hereby constituted as per the composition detailed below:

1. **Director General (DG) of the University:** Prof. (Dr.)Tathagata Bandyopadhyay
2. **Academician or Professional to be appointed by the Board:** Dr. Sukumar Nandi, Professor, IIT Guwahati
3. **Academician or Professional to be appointed by the Board:** Prof. Prabir K Biswas, Professor, IIT Kharagpur
4. **External academician or professional in the area of Information and Communication Technology to be appointed by the DG:** Dr. Madhavan Mukund, Director, Chennai Mathematical Institute
5. **External academician or professional in the area of Information and Communication Technology to be appointed by the DG:** Mr. Pavitar Singh, Co-Founder & CEO, UnifyApps
6. **Director of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG:** Prof. (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay
7. **Director of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG:** Vacant

8. **Dean of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG:** Prof. Maniklal Das, Dean (Faculty), DA-IICT
9. **Dean of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG:** Prof. Bhaskar Chaudhury, Dean (Academic Programs), DA-IICT
10. **One Professor from each discipline of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG:** Prof. Madhumita Mazumdar, Professor, DA-IICT
11. **One Professor from each discipline of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG:** Prof. Anish Mathuria, Professor, DA-IICT
12. **Secretary to the Academic Council (Non-member):** Mr. Siddharth Swaminarayan, Executive Registrar, DAU

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the newly constituted Academic Council acknowledges and places on record its appreciation and gratitude for the valuable contributions made by the members of the Academic Council of DA-IICT, who have ceased to hold office upon constitution of the Academic Council of Dhirubhai Ambani University.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** any necessary communication or statutory filings to effectuate above resolutions be duly undertaken by any member of the Board of Governors and/or the Executive Registrar and/or any person authorized by the Executive Registrar in this regard.

**Item No. 7: To constitute the Finance Committee pursuant to the provisions of the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024.**

The Board noted the new composition of the Finance Committee to be constituted pursuant to the provisions of the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act 2024. The Board also noted profile of Shri Umesh Dalal, an expert nominated by the President in the new Committee and resolved as under:

**RESOLVED THAT**, pursuant to the provisions of Section 16 of the DA-IICT Act, 2003, as amended by the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024, and in alignment with the emerging multidisciplinary nature of the university, the Finance Committee of the Dhirubhai Ambani University (DAU) is hereby constituted as per the composition detailed below:

1. **Director General of the University:** Prof. (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay
2. **Member of the Board to be appointed by the President:** Mr. Shrikant Kulkarni, Ex-Chief Business Officer, Reliance Power Limited
3. **One Director of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by the Director General (DG):** Prof. (Dr.) Tathagata Bandyopadhyay

4. **Dean of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by DG:** Prof. Maniklal Das, Dean (Faculty), DA-IICT
5. **Expert, to be nominated by the President:** Mr. Umesh Dalal, Ex-CFO, IIM-A
6. **Secretary to the Finance Committee (Non-member):** Mr. Siddharth Swaminarayan, Executive Registrar, DAU

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the newly constituted Finance Committee acknowledges and places on record its appreciation and gratitude for the valuable contributions made by the members of the Finance Committee of DA-IICT, who have ceased to hold office upon constitution of the Finance Committee of Dhirubhai Ambani University.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** any necessary communication or statutory filings to effectuate above resolutions be duly undertaken by any member of the Board of Governors and/or the Executive Registrar and/or any person authorized by the Executive Registrar in this regard.

**Agenda Item No. 8: To approve establishment of the School of Law pursuant to the provisions of the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024 and appointment of Director of School of Law, and introduction of executive education programs and academic programs as envisaged under the plan for the School of Law.**

The Board noted that the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024 has amended the Section 4 of the DA-IICT Act, 2003, in keeping with the emerging multidisciplinary nature of the university. Section 4 of the DA-IICT Act, 2003 deals with the Objects of the University. It was noted that the amended Section 4 now provides an exhaustive list of disciplines in which Dhirubhai Ambani University (DAU) can provide knowledge, education, training and research facilities of high order. It also recognizes that courses offered can be of interdisciplinary nature combining various disciplines.

It was noted that as part of its journey to become a multidisciplinary university, over the past one-year, considerable efforts have been undertaken and several consultations held to develop an understanding of the landscape of legal education in India and opportunities & challenges for a new law school to be established. This has helped in shaping a strategy which aims at building a distinctive positioning for the proposed School of Law under the aegis Dhirubhai Ambani University.

The Board noted that by following a robust selection process, a Founding Director has been selected for establishing a School of Law. The selection process entailed extensive interaction of the shortlisted candidates with Prof J. Ramachandran, who is our Advisor and highly renowned Professor of Strategy, retired from IIM-Bangalore; Prof. Srividhya Ragavan, Professor of Law at Texas A&M University, School of Law, who is also a fellow of DAU; and the sponsoring entity team at the Reliance Group.



Following the above-mentioned process, the Board noted that Prof. (Dr.) Avinash Dadhich has been appointed as the Founding Director in July 2024 to lead the establishment of the School of Law. Detailed profile of Prof. Dadhich was shared with the members.

The Board was also briefed on the development path for the School of Law, as follows:

1. focusing on outreach and executive education programs for legal and non-legal professionals with immediate effect;
2. starting with Masters and PhD offering for a smaller batch by August 2025; and
3. launching offerings at the undergraduate level by August 2026.

The approval from Bar Council of India (BCI) is required for offering undergraduate programs. The same shall be obtained before commencing the undergraduate program(s) leading to LLB.

Progressively, over the years, DAU will consider adding other disciplines to its portfolio viz. Management, Design, Architecture, etc.

After deliberations, the Board resolved as under:

**RESOLVED THAT** pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 of the DA-IICT Act, 2003, as amended by the DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024, which expands the University's Objects to include multidisciplinary education and interdisciplinary courses, **the establishment of the School of Law at Dhirubhai Ambani University (DAU) be and is hereby approved.**

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the introduction of the following programs and initiatives as outlined in the strategy document is hereby approved, subject to fulfilment of the University's governance processes and necessary statutory and regulatory approvals, as applicable:

1. **Outreach and Executive Education Programs:** For legal and non-legal professionals to commence immediately.
2. **Postgraduate and Doctoral Programs:** To begin by August 2025.
3. **Undergraduate Programs:** To be launched by August 2026, subject to obtaining requisite approval from the Bar Council of India (BCI).

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the Board acknowledges the appointment of Prof. (Dr.) Avinash Dadhich as the Founding Director of the School of Law.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the phased development approach for the School of Law, which includes extensive stakeholder consultations and professional engagements, is hereby noted and endorsed.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** any necessary actions, communications, or statutory filings required to implement above resolutions, including engagement with the Bar Council of India for approvals related to undergraduate programs, be undertaken by any member of the Board of Governors OR Prof. (Dr.) Avinash Dadhich, the Founding

Director of the School of Law, in coordination with the University's governance bodies and authorized personnel.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** any necessary communication or statutory filings to effectuate the above resolutions be duly undertaken by any member of the Board of Governors and/or the Executive Registrar and/or any person authorized by the Executive Registrar in this regard.

**Agenda Item No. 9: To note implementation actions which are underway consequent upon enactment of DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024.**

The Board noted the status report on various implementation actions taken and underway upon enactment of DA-IICT (Amendment) Act, 2024. These actions relate to registration of domain names for Dhirubhai Ambani University (DAU); intimation to various regulatory and statutory /tax authorities; bringing about suitable changes in their records; undertaking branding exercise for Dhirubhai Ambani University & constituent schools under DAU; master planning of DAU campus at Gandhinagar, etc.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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