Annexure -

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND THIRD MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF INFLIBNET CENTRE HELD ON 24TH DECEMBER, 1998 AT UGC AT 1500 HRS.

Due to paucity of time, it was decided to hold the sixth meeting of the Governing Board and third meeting of the Council of INFLIBNET Centre together. Since there was no quorum , the meetings were adjourned for more than half an hour and reconvened. Following persons were present in the combined reconvened meeting :

- Prof. (Miss) A.S.Desai, Chairperson, UGC & President of the Council
- Prof. Yash Pal, National Research Professor & Chairperson of the GB
- Prof. K.M.Pathak, Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University
- Dr. K.S.Tyagi, Director, NASSDOC (representing Chairperson, ICSSR)
- Dr. G.D.Sharma, Secretary, UGC
- Shri Pramod Kumar, Director, INFLIBNET Centre and Secretary to the GB and Council

Invitees :
- Shri S.M.Salgar, Scientist "G", INFLIBNET Centre
- Mrs. Niloufer A. Kazmi, Joint Secretary, UGC
- Shri C.K.Shah, Admn. Officer-III, INFLIBNET Centre
- Mrs. Jose Mathew, SAO, CEC (representing Prof. M.M.Chowdhary)
- Shri S.P.Sachdeva, Under Secretary, UGC
- Shri V.R.Dabral, Section Officer, UGC

Following members could not attend the meeting :
- Prof. E. Rame Gowda, Chairperson, AICTE
- Prof. D.M.Nanjundappa, Chairperson, ICSSR

- Dr. R.A.Mashelkar, Director General, CSIR
- Dr. A.R.Bandopadhyay, Director, National Library
- Prof. N. Balakrishna, Chairperson, NCSI
- Prof. M.P.Kapoor, Director, TIET
- Prof. T.Vishwanathan, Director, INSDOC
- Dr. H.M.Desai, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat University
- Vice-Chancellor, Bhavnagar University
- Prof.J.V.Narlikar, Director, IUCAA
- Shri P.P.Kale
- Prof. Govardhan Mehta, Director, IISC
- Member Secretary, AICTE
- Prof. Harsha Parekh

Deliberations of the meeting are summarised below :

Agenda item No. 1 (GB) : <u>Chairperson's Remarks</u>

Prof. Desai, the President of the Council, invited Prof. Yash Pal to begin the proceedings with his remarks. In his opening remarks Prof. Yash Pal told that during his visits to various universities, he found that a new culture based on IT has developed. This has happened because of good efforts of INFLIBNET Centre, particularly its training programmes. Librarians are now speaking IT language. Credit for this goes to INFLIBNET Centre. He added that credit also is due to the UGC for setting up INFLIBNET Centre and support provided to it. Prof. Desai remarked that CALIBER has proved to be a very useful Convention which is responsible for generating enthusiasm among university librarians and she congratulated INFLIBNET for this effort. Prof. Yash Pal said that we realise importance of things only when some one from abroad says that it is important. This should not dissuade us. Academics using computers are now accessing databases on the Internet, but he was apprehensive that access to Internet in not

access to wisdom. No doubt there is a lot of data on Internet but all of it is not wisdom. For wisdom, we have to create our own data banks. Lot of things are going on in our country. When some people say that they are creating high speed back bones, they are talking about the technology only. At INFLIBNET, we are not talking about technology only. We are talking about extension of information and wisdom. It is important that INFLIBNET does not get tied to technology only otherwise it will become another ERNET or NICNET. He emphasised that satellite based networks are required to reach distant parts of our country and to get reasonable data speeds. In planning and configuring a VSAT network for universities, INFLIBNET has spent a lot of time. Experts from other departments have also spent their valuable time in this effort. But this is not the end. VSAT networks may work for say ten more years and then get replaced by may be fibre optic networks but their importance in linking distant remote places will continue.

Prof. Desai said that ICSSR has 27 institutions which can benefit by associating with INFLIBNET. She invited ICSSR to become partner in UGC network. Prof. Yash Pal appreciated this and said that if ICSSR joins this network it will be of great mutual benefit for both of us and NASSDOC resources will become easily accessible to universities.

Prof. Yash Pal observed that the VSAT network can not be established by giving funds to individual universities. It should be done from a single point. It must be run as a programme under supervision of the GB and the Council.

Prof. Desai commented that it was difficult to locate a particular agenda item in the report. She suggested that in future, dividers with numbers projecting out should be used, so that one can easily go to the required agenda item. The Director agreed to incorporate this suggestion in future.

Agenda item No. 2 (GB) : Action Taken Report

Director briefed the Board on actions taken on various items discussed in the last Board meeting which are summarised below.

Theses Database

Regarding INFLIBNET's request to Vice-Chancellors of universities to send synopses of theses/dissertations for inclusion in the national database, Prof. Yash Pal enquired as to how many universities have responded. Shri Pramod Kumar informed that about 30–40 universities have responded.

Database of the Projects

Prof. Desai informed that ICSSR has done a major job of getting information on projects. Prof. Yash Pal advised that a dialogue should be started with ICSSR to see if their databases can be made accessible to the university system and vice versa. Some dialogue was reported to have started in this direction between NASSDOC and INFLIBNET but due to uncertainties and absence of network support nothing fruitful could emerge. Prof. Yash Pal wanted ICSSR cooperation to start and a report to be presented on progress made in this regard in the next GB meeting.

Establishment of LANs

Regarding the action on establishment of LANs in 50 universities in the 9th Plan period which was approved in the last GB meeting, Director, INFLIBNET Centre had sent a request to the UGC to provide necessary grants to universities and also suggested it as a new start in the BE projections for F.Y. 1999-2000. Prof. Desai

informed the members that UGC had no funds to support LANs and suggested that the universities should set up LANs from the Development Grants given to them by the UGC. Further Prof. Desai did not favour the idea of INFLIBNET setting up LANs in a couple of universities for demonstration purposes. She felt that there was no need for such demonstration as some universities have already established LANs in their campuses. Prof. Yash Pal said that some universities have spent exhorbitent amount for this, while it should be possible to have a reasonably good LAN at a fraction of the cost. He referred to the developments at the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai.

Prof. Yash Pal suggested that the UGC should approach the National Task Force on IT for special allocation to universities for setting up LANs.

UGC Sanction of Posts

Regarding sanction of six technical posts approved in the fifth meeting of GB, Prof. Desai wanted to know about the reasons for delay and asked UGC to respond quickly. There was some confusion regarding non-receipt of communication in this matter by UGC from INFLIBNET. Shri Shah agreed to send another copy to the IUC bureau and Mrs. Kazmi promised quick action.

New Proposals

GB, in its last meeting, had approved proposals on Document Delivery Service and Retrospective Conversion, which have been sent to the UGC for funding. Mrs. Kazmi was requested to expedite funding universities for these activities.

Agenda item No.4 (GB) : <u>Status Report by the Director</u>

Following observations were made on Status Report presented by the Director.

- While discussing progress of automation of university libraries, Prof. Desai suggested that INFLIBNET should provide her a list of remaining universities requiring funding at least one year in advance, so that, year wise allocation can be planned. She wanted INFLIBNET to give the list by end of January.

- Director mentioned about the difficulties faced by universities in getting recurring grants. Prof. Desai advised UGC to write to universities regarding recurring grants and recruitment of Information Scientists. She also suggested that UGC may provide 25% advance recurring grant to universities to begin with and the balance may be paid based on the progress made.

- In connection with the full text theses database creation Dr. Tyagi informed about problems faced by him in getting full text of theses from universities in view of copy right act. Prof. Desai advised Dr. Tyagi to write to her about it to look into the matter.

- Prof. Yash Pal wanted that universities may be provided Rs.2.85 lakhs as grant for procuring LAN servers as suggested by INFLIBNET in its budget document to start networking activities and services.

- Regarding the progress made in respect of the VSAT Project, Prof. Yash Pal informed that the VSAT proposal is to be taken up in the next meeting of Commission in February, 1999. A detailed proposal containing genesis of the Project, INFLIBNET's role in preparing universities for this network, human resource development efforts and database creation activities etc. has to be prepared for placing before the Commission. Prof. Desai suggested that genesis part of the report may be written by the UGC and the rest may be prepared by INFLIBNET. Prof. Desai said that the report should also contain

proposed management system, the cost of running the network at the end of the contract period etc.

Dr. Sharma wanted the report to be ready by middle of January, 1999.

Agenda item No.5 (GB) : <u>Briefing on Finance Committee Meeting</u>

Director briefed the members about the Proceedings of the 4th meeting of the Finance Committee. He informed the members that Finance Committee has recommended RE of Rs.210.87 lakhs for F.Y. 1998-99 and BE of Rs.295.78 lakhs F.Y. 1999-2000 and requested for GB's concurrence. GB approved the RE for 1998-99 and BE 1999-2000 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Agenda item No. 8 (GB) : <u>Updation of MOA</u>

As per UGC's directive, MOA and rules of the Centre had to be modified as per those of NSC. It was reported that, new MOA has been worked out based on the MOA and rules f NSC. It has been examined and approved by the IUC bureau of UGC. Prof. Desai advised that in MOA and Rules we should follow Government of India rules wherever applicable. Some errors in the write-up were observed. It was decided that after corrections it can be taken as approved.

Agenda item No. 9 (GB) : <u>Change of Nomenclature of A.O.-I Post</u>

UGC had desired that the nomenclature of the post of Administrative Officer-I be changed to Section Officer, as there was no provision of A.O.-I post in UGC's cadre. Accordingly a proposal was submitted to the GB and the Council to change the nomenclature as desired. The GB and Council approved change of nomenclature of the existing incumbent from Admn. Officer-I to Section Officer in the pay scale of Rs. 6500-10500 (revised) as requested.

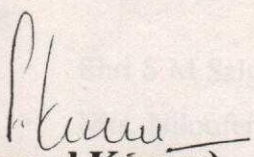### Agenda item No. 10 (GB) : Appointment of Auditors

A proposal was put to the GB for appointment of Auditors for the F.Y. 1999-2000. The GB approved appointment of M/s Deepak Jayantilal Shah & Co. as auditors for the FY 1999-2000. Prof. Desai advised that in future INFLIBNET should provide a panel of auditors to the GB for appointing an auditor. The Director, agreed to do so in future.

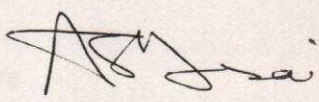### Agenda item No. 4 (Council) : Presentation of Audited Accounts

Audited accounts of the INFLIBNET Centre for FY 1997-98, duly approved by FC and GB were presented to the Council. These accounts were accepted by the Council.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes prepared by   Minutes approved by

(Pramod Kumar)   **(Armaity Desai)**
Secretary, GB & Council   President, Council