

Minutes of IQAC Meeting

Date: May 21st, 2026, Time: 03:30 PM, Venue: Seminar Room, C1 Block

Members Attended:

- Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo (IQAC Coordinator)
- Dr. Annu Malhotra (Convenor C1, Coordinator Surveys)
- Dr. Shamim Ahmed (Convener C2)
- Dr. Geetanjali Sethi (Convener C3)
- Dr. Pankaj Mishra (Convenor C4)
- Mr. Sunil Issar (Member)
- Dr. Jyotirmoy Maity (On behalf of Convenor C5)
- Dr. Akshay Rana (Associate Coordinator, IQAC)
- Mr. Gurnoor (SUS President)

Apologies for Absence:

- Prof. John Varghese (Principal)
- Dr. Chinkhanlun Guite (Bursar)
- Brigadier Rajiv S. Williams (Member)
- Dr. N. P. Ashley (Convenor C7)
- Dr. Abhinav Gupta (Convenor, C6)
- Ms. Poonam Kalra (Convenor, C5)

Points of Discussion:

1. The meeting was initiated by the IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo, with the consent of all the members present. He presented the Minutes of the previous IQAC meeting held on October 29th, 2025 for the approval of the members. The minutes were proposed by Dr. Geetanjali Sethi and seconded by Mr. Sunil Issar.
2. The meeting began with a discussion on the Action Taken Report (ATR) of the previous meeting. Dr. Geetanjali Sethi, informed the members about the successful conduct of a Radio Astronomy-Centred Workshop, organized by the Department of Physics with the support of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, from 16–18 April 2026. In continuation, Dr. Pankaj Mishra, on behalf of the Department of Sanskrit, expressed his sincere gratitude to the IQAC for its financial support towards the organization of the National Seminar.

3. The IQAC Coordinator informed the members about the successful organization of the National Multidisciplinary Seminar for Undergraduate Research (10–11 April 2026), which witnessed participation from over 150+ undergraduate students from St. Stephen's College and other institutions. The participants presented their research work through both paper presentations and poster presentations, providing a vibrant platform for academic exchange and interdisciplinary learning.
4. The Committee discussed the implementation of the Fourth-Year Research Component. Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo informed the members about the establishment of the Research Committee of the College (RCC) to oversee its smooth functioning and appreciated its efforts in implementing University guidelines and directives. He also placed on record the contribution of Prof. Geetanjali Sethi and the IT Department, particularly Mr. Ravi, in the development and successful operationalization of the Fourth-Year Research Management Portal. Further, he informed the members that the **IQAC is preparing a Handbook of Guidelines for fourth-year students, containing relevant rules, regulations, and procedures, which will be updated periodically in accordance with University guidelines.**
5. Dr. Pankaj Mishra raised the possibility of publishing seminar and conference proceedings to promote undergraduate research and provide wider visibility to students' scholarly work. During the discussion, Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo noted that while the College already has several publications managed by student societies and academic groups, there may be merit in exploring the establishment of a formal College research journal with an ISSN number. **To take the proposal forward, Prof. Shamim Ahmad was requested to examine its feasibility and prepare a detailed proposal outlining the journal's governance structure, editorial process, and quality assurance mechanisms.** The Committee emphasized that appropriate academic and editorial standards should be maintained to ensure the credibility, quality, and long-term sustainability of the publication.
6. Mr. Sunil Issar initiated a discussion on student participation in skill-development and experiential learning opportunities under the Fourth-Year Undergraduate Programme. Prof. Geetanjali Sethi emphasized the importance of internships, industry engagement, practical training, and greater involvement of the alumni network in facilitating such opportunities. Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo informed the members that the Career Planning and Placement Cell (CPC) and the Incubation Centre were already supporting students through internships and placement-related activities. However, the Committee felt that there was considerable scope for strengthening engagement with alumni, industry partners, start-ups, and new organizations to create a wider range of opportunities for students. Mr. Gurnoor, President of the Students' Union, also highlighted the need for greater transparency and communication regarding opportunities facilitated through the CPC.
7. Dr. Annu Malhotra stressed the importance of encouraging students, particularly in the sixth semester, to undertake internships and projects to better prepare for future academic and professional pursuits. Dr. Pankaj Mishra and Mr. Sunil Issar highlighted

opportunities available through organizations such as Doordarshan, the UGC, the Planning Commission, and other public and private institutions. The Committee agreed on the need to strengthen institutional linkages and establish a more structured mechanism for disseminating information about internships, projects, and skill-development opportunities. **To take the matter forward, Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo requested Dr. Annu Malhotra and Mr. Sunil Issar to jointly prepare a proposal outlining measures to enhance such opportunities, including the feasibility of establishing a dedicated faculty-supervised body. The proposal will be presented at a future meeting for consideration and further action.**

8. Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo informed the members that the Bursar and the Dean Research are currently exploring mechanisms for providing research funding to faculty members for approved research projects. He further suggested that the IQAC may consider developing a broader framework to support Fourth-Year Undergraduate research projects, faculty research, and student-led research initiatives. During the discussion, the possibility of mobilizing resources through alumni contributions, CSR funding, and other external sources was also explored. Prof. Geetanjali Sethi suggested examining such avenues as potential sources of support for research and institutional development. **To take the matter forward, Dr. Deo requested Prof. Sethi, in her capacity as Dean Research and Convenor of Criterion III (Research, Innovations and Extension), to examine the feasibility of various funding mechanisms and prepare a detailed set of recommendations for consideration by the IQAC before the next meeting.** Mr. Gurnoor, President of the Students' Union, raised concerns regarding the potential impact of any funding framework on student fees. The Committee noted the concern and agreed that student welfare and affordability must remain key considerations in the formulation of any future proposal
9. Dr. Akshay Rana informed the members that the IQAC had already initiated the data collection process for AQAR 2025–26 and was gathering information from faculty members, students, and student societies. He also requested Mr. Gurnoor, President of the Students' Union, to encourage students to respond promptly to surveys and data requests circulated as part of these institutional exercises. On question of Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), he informed the Committee that the implementation of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) framework at the College level would depend upon the completion of the necessary registration by the University.
10. Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo proposed the Vote of Thanks and expressed his gratitude to the Principal, IQAC members, and all participants for their valuable contributions and continued support. The meeting concluded with appreciation for the collective efforts towards the academic and institutional development of the College.

Prepared by:
Dr. Akshay Rana
Associate Coordinator to IQAC