



COEP Technological University, Pune
(A Unitary Public University of Govt. of Maharashtra)
Wellesley Road, Shivajinagar, PUNE- 411 005

Minutes of 8th BOG Meeting

The eighth (8th) meeting of the Board of Governance of COEP Technological University was held on Saturday, 22nd March 2025. The following members were present in the meeting:

1.	Shri. Vinayak Pai	Chairman
2.	Prof. Sunil Bhirud	Member
3.	Mr. Bharat Gite	Member
4.	Dr. Vinod Mohitkar	Member
5.	Shri. Amit Paranjape	Member
6.	Shri. Santosh Khorgade (Attended Online)	Member
7.	Prof. Parag Sadgir	Member
8.	Dr. (Mrs.) Aruna Thube	Member
9.	Dr. (Mrs.) Yashodhara Haribhakta,	Permanent Invitee
10.	Dr. D. N. Sonawane	Member -Secretary

Members granted leave of absence:

1.	Prof. Milind Atrey	Member
2.	Prof. Ashish Lele	Member
3.	Prof. Sunil Bhagwat	Member

The meeting began with Shri Vinayak Pai, Chairman of the Board of Governors, formally welcoming Prof. Parag Sadgir, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, and Dr. S. P. Mahajan, Incharge Finance and Accounts officer (FAO), as the newly inducted members of the Board of Governors.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Pai highlighted his active engagement in understanding the university's challenges through extensive discussions with the Vice Chancellor and other key stakeholders. He outlined key priorities, including *Project Utkarsh*—the university's transformation initiative, improving COEP Tech's NIRF ranking, expediting the operationalization of the Chikhali Research Park, and strengthening the institute's presence in global research and industry collaborations.

He briefed about significant milestone in the university's transformation efforts—the introduction of the Endowment for Chair Professorships to enhance academic excellence. The first of its kind, the *Dr. Pramod Chaudhari Chair Professorship for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML)*, was officially established today with a signed MoU between COEP and veteran industrialist Dr. Pramod Chaudhari. Additionally, he shared that the university, in collaboration with IISER Pune, is actively pursuing government funding for an AI/ML foundation model.

Item 8.1: To confirm the Minutes of the 7th BOG meeting and to approve the Action Taken Report (ATR) of 7th BOG meeting held on Saturday, December 07, 2024.

Registrar informed the Board that the minutes of the 7th BOG meeting, held on Saturday, 7th December 2024, were circulated to all members for their review and suggestions. He also informed that, in the final minutes the suggestions and inputs given by the Board members are incorporated. He then provided an update on key points from the Action Taken Report (ATR) and Board members has given some inputs and suggestions on ATR to incorporate and prepare the final ATR of 7th BOG meeting.

- Under agenda point 7.2, regarding the nomination from the Alumni Association to the Board of Governors as per Clause 23(4-k) of the COEP Tech University Act 2022, Mr. Gite stated that the General Body meeting of the Alumni Association had not been held in the last two months but will be conducted in the following month, after which the nomination of Alumni Association would be communicated.
- Under agenda point 7.3, Hon'ble Chairman BOG, Mr. Vinayak Paik informed the Board about the nomination of **Mr. Prakash Dhoka, a 1972 COEP alumnus and an industrialist** with extensive experience in mentoring startups and serving as Chairman of DIPEX 2025 in place of Dr. Ravindra Utgikar as one of the Directors on the Board of Directors of COEP's BHAU Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Leadership.
- For agenda point 7.5, concerning the COEP-RISE proposal to incentivize faculty for fostering a research culture, the Board recommended implementing the policy from **1st April 2025**, aligning with the financial year.
- Regarding agenda point 7.6, Registrar informed to Board members that landscaping work in front of the main building has commenced and is in progress. The Board recommended onboarding a renowned architect to provide consultation on archaeological and aesthetic aspects of campus renovation and beautification.

- Under agenda point 7.7, which pertained to restructuring Schools, Deans, and corresponding authorities, Mr. Pai highlighted the crucial role of the Director, RIIL, in the University's transformation to expedite and streamline the activities of Research, Innovation and Incubation both at Shivajinagar campus and Chikhali campus. The Board recommended appointing a Professor of Practice having a suitable experience to strengthen the R and D and industry linkages.
- Hon'ble VC further apprised the members that COEP Tech has signed MOUs with Mumbai University. Under this MoU, COEP Tech and Mumbai University will work together in cutting-edge fields like Robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science, and Engineering Management. The collaboration will also extend to language training in international languages such as German, Japanese, Chinese, and French, enabling students to develop global competencies and improve their career prospects in multinational environments.
- For agenda point 7.8, concerning progress on the COEP-Chikhali Campus, Registrar informed the Board members that the Research and Innovation Park is nearly in completion stage, with only front landscaping pending. The Board recommended holding a dedicated meeting on 26th April 2025 to deliberate on Chikhali campus development, as well as suggested forming a subcommittee comprising Mr. Amit Paranjape and Prof. Milind Atrey to collaborate with KPMG in assessing viable models. Mr. Gite assured that an alumnus from the industry would be nominated as the new member of the exiting BOG within 2–3 weeks, who would also join this subcommittee.

The members directed the said committee to submit a concept note outlining Chikhali's utilization for setting up Centres of Excellence in association with the industries and potential integration avenues with IIT Bombay by 20th April 2025, with the final presentation by 30th April 2025, targeting implementation in the 2025–26 academic year.

- Under agenda point 7.10, regarding the unauthorized online transaction of Rs. 51 lakhs due to cyber fraud at COEP in October 2018, Registrar informed the Board members that legal opinion is sought from retired District Judge Mr. Sumant Kolhe. He would conduct proceedings and submit a report to ensure legal standing. Dr. Mohitkar emphasized submitting the report to the Government at the earliest, and Mr. Pai recommended exploring potential actions against SBI for negligence in the matter.

Resolution 8.1: The Board **NOTED** all above points and **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the Minutes and suggested some inputs to incorporate in ATR of the 7th BOG meeting held on Saturday, 7th December 2024.

Action: - Registrar Office

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Item No. 8.2: To approve the Minutes of 7th Finance Committee held on Tuesday, 11th March, 2025.

Dr. S. P. Mahajan, Incharge-Finance and Accounts Officer (FAO) presented the Minutes of the 7th Finance Committee meeting held on 11th March 2025 including the minutes of the minutes of the 6th Purchase Committee held on 11th February 2025, appointment of Statutory auditor for FYL 2024-25, appointment of GST consultant for the FY: 2025-26, re-appropriation of budget heads for FY: 2024-25 and the finance budget of the University for the FY: 2025-26 and increase in Dearness Allowance and House Rent Allowance and payment of arrears to the employees appointed by BOG as per Govt. GR issued on 25th February, 2025.

The Incharge FAO, presented the Budget of COEP Tech University for FY: 2025-26 with major highlights as:

- Strengthening research activities through incentives and R&D support.
- Tenure-based faculty appointments to accommodate increased student intake.
- Upgradation of classrooms and laboratories.
- Enhancements to the Central Computing Facility, IT infrastructure and procurement of Computers, Printers Software and IT resources.
- Provision for HVAC system maintenance and repairs.
- Support for professional society membership.

The members deliberated on the income-expenditure and the proposed budget of the University for the FY: 2025-26. As the proposed budget for FY 2025-26 shows loss (deficit) of **Rs. 48,50,95,030/-**. Hon'ble members raised their concerns and decided to circulate the clarification related to catering the requirement of the proposed expenditure. Accordingly, a point-wise clarification was circulated to the members through email which is placed below and approved by the Board members.

A brief budget for FY: 2025-26 presented by FAO is as:

Particulars	Budgeted Expenses 2025-26 (INR)	Particulars	Budgeted Income 2025-26 (INR)
Recurring Expenses	1,68,60,88,030	Recurring Income	1,27,54,63,000
Non-Recurring Expenses	59,44,00,000	Non-Recurring Income	40,84,00,000
IRG Expenses	18,57,70,000	IRG Income	29,73,00,000
Total Expenses	2,46,62,58,030	Total Income	198,11,63, 000

The FAO further heighted that, the following points have been considered while finalizing the budget of FY: 2025-26.

- While considering income the Development Fees (mostly used for planned developments) amount **Rs 34,20,35,450/-** is not considered as a part of Budgeted Income. This amount will be used for proposed development work.
- Budgeted Expenses include Depreciation amount is Rs 8,64,72,150/- and Provision for excess expenditure (10% safety margin) Rs 9,20,57,900/- [Total Rs. 17,85,30,050/-].
- The loss can be supported by the funds available in the General Fund and Trust Fund.

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Resolution 8.2: The Board members, discussed, deliberated and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Minutes of 7th Finance Committee held on Tuesday, 11th March, 2025, including:

- Minutes of 6th Purchase Committee held on 11th February 2025.
- Appointment of Statutory Auditor for the FY: 2024-25 and recommended continuation of the services of M/s Joshi Borse & Pol, the existing Statutory auditor to the University for FY 2024-25 with the same terms and conditions of previous appointment with the work order value of the amount they have quoted for the tender that University has published for the appointment of Statutory Auditor.
- Appointment of M/s Joshi Borse & Pol as GST Consultant for the FY: 2025-26 with the same terms of conditions and work order value of FY: 2024-25.
- Reappropriation of the budget heads for the FY: 2024-25
- Finance budget of the University for FY: 2025-26, as per the recommendation of the 7th Finance committee meeting held on 11th March 2025.
- Increment of DA from 50 % to 53% and HRA from 27% to 30% with effect from the month of July 2024. Also paying the DA and HRA arrears to 121 BOG appointed employees arising due to the difference from July 2024 to March 2025 as per the Govt. GR issued on 25th February 2025.

Action: - I/c, FAO.

Item 8.3: To approve creation of the non-vacation teachers positions on a 3-years Tenure basis in various university Departments and approval for advertisement and initiation of process for appointment of non-vacation teachers on Tenure (purely on Contractual) basis.

Registrar informed the Board members that the University has 146 Govt sanctioned posts for UG teachers and 75 posts of PG teachers which include Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, WS and TPO. Currently, there are 70 Government (MPSC) appointed faculty, 59 BOG appointed faculty and 16 faculty appointed by BOG on BOG created post. Thus, there are a total of 142 full-time faculty working in various Departments of the University.

To fulfil the faculty requirement, in the AY: 2024-25, the University has appointed 73 adjunct faculty on an 11-months contractual basis. However, it has been observed that the adjunct faculty leaves the job in between even before the end of their 11-months terms as well as 11-months terms doesn't attract good faculty. Eventually this affects academic quality, research outputs as well as these appointments don't help for NIRF ranking.

In view of this and to maintain the academic quality, to enhance industry interaction and to improve the overall teaching learning process and students' satisfaction level, it is necessary to appoint well experienced full-time faculty on long term contract basis till a decision regarding appointment of faculty on regular basis at university level is permitted by the Government. Accordingly, as per COEP Tech University Act 2022, clause 5(vi and vii) and as per the opinion sought from the advocate Mr. Ashutosh Kulkarni, it is proposed to create **107 posts of Tenured Assistant Professors** for 03 years duration on dying posts at various Departments of the University as per the sanction intake and fulfilling the minimum faculty requirement to maintain

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1:20 SFR. These dying posts created at the University level shall be seized as soon as the faculty appointed against these posts leaves the job or at the end of the specified duration (i.e. 03 years).

BOG-Chairman emphasized the importance of onboarding faculty with longer tenures with a salary of Rs. 1.0 Lakh to 1.2 Lakhs/months depending on the credentials and the experience, the institute from which the candidate has qualified a Ph.D degree. He suggested prioritizing candidates with PhDs from institutions having NIRF ranking within the top 100. Chairman also emphasizes that this will ensure retention and maintaining a high-quality teaching, especially considering that many senior faculty members will be retiring in the next three years. Additionally, he recommended referring to faculty recruitment advertisements from CFTI's, VJTI, and SGGS Nanded. To attract top talent, COEP Tech shall also reach out to IITs and NITs to inform their PhD graduates about the available positions.

Resolution 8.3: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the creation of **107 non-vacation Tenured Faculty positions of Tenured Assistant Professors** on a three-years tenured basis on dying posts across various Departments of the University. The appointments should be made on a consolidated salary basis i.e. Rs. 1Lakh to 1.20 Lakhs/month. These dying posts created at the University level shall be seized as soon as the faculty appointed against these posts leaves the job or at the end of the specified duration (i.e. 03 years). Fresh approvals of the BOG will be required for subsequent appointments beyond the 3-years tenure or if the faculty leaves the University.

Action: - Registrar/Dean/Establishment Section

Item 8.4: To approve the Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Board of Research, Innovation, Incubation and Linkages (RIIL) was held on Wednesday, 19th March, 2025.

Prof. Dhokey presented the Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Board of Research, Innovation, Incubation, and Linkages (RIIL) held on Wednesday, 19th March 2025. He also informed the members about internship policy to be implemented at the University from AY: 2025-26, various MoUs signed with national and international organizations, along with CSR contributions received since the last Board of Governors (BOG) meeting.

Resolution 8.4: The Board unanimously **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** minutes of the 4th meeting of the Board of RIIL held on 19th March 2025.

Action: - Director RIIL

Item 8.5: To appraise the Board members for various MOU's signed and CSR funding received by the University since the last Board meeting.

Prof. Dhokey informed the members about various MoUs signed with national and international organizations, along with CSR contributions received since the last Board of Governors (BOG) meeting.

MOUs signed with Industries:

Sr No	Collaborators	Objectives
1	Vasantdada Sugar Institute Pune	Sponsored Research Project Rs. 17 Lakh (Extension 2025-2026)
2	Entrepreneurship Development Centre (Venture Centre) 06/2/2025	Promotion to Entrepreneurship Guest Talks, Seminars
3	Willo Mather and Platt Pumps Pvt Ltd 29/1/2025	Industry sponsored Project Rs. 16 Lakh
4	Glatt Systems Pvt Ltd 6/12/2024	Internship (paid) for 9 Students

CSR Funding Received:

Sr No	Funding Agency	Total Support (Rs.)
1	KPIT Technologies Limited 03/3/2025	Rs. 200 Lakh (To establish COE at Department of Instrumentation and Control, Skilling programme, Internship & Research in automotive embedded Systems)
2	Ansys Software Pvt Ltd 24/2/2025	Rs. 20.52 Lakh (For Research purpose)
3	Amphenol Interconnect India Pvt Ltd 29/1/2025	Rs. 127 Lakh (For Developing Computational lab for Research purpose)
4	Macdermid Ethone India Pvt Ltd 22/1/2025	Rs. 35 Lakh (For Research & Training Purpose)
5	Dr. Pramod Madhukar Chaudhari 22/3/2025	Rs. 100 Lakh (To create an Endowed Chair Professorship at the University in the domain of AI & ML)

The committee recommended establishing a formal practice of recognizing agencies and individuals who generously support the University through CSR funding and Sponsored Research projects. This recognition would involve sending official appreciation letters at the University level.

Resolution 8.5: The Board **NOTED** the updates about various MOU's signed and CSR funding received by the University since the last Board meeting.

Action: - RIIL Office

Item 8.6: Updates on various activities of the University

Hon'ble VC briefed the Board members on the recent achievements and key activities of COEP Technological University since the last BOG meeting.

- The COEP Technological University cultural team secured first place at the prestigious 51st Firodia Karandak 2025, winning in 12 different categories and marking a consecutive victory at the event.
- COEP Tech Formula racing club along with IIT Bombay and IIT Madras are the only three teams from India selected for Formula Student East, an international car racing competition to be held from 28th July to 2nd August 2025 at Hockenheim, Germany.
- The 97th Regatta was successfully held on March 16, 2025. Mr. Vilas Javadekar, COEP Alumnus and Founder & Chairman of Vilas Javdekar Developers; Mr. Aditya Javadekar CEO of Vilas Javadekar Developers and Mr. Sarvesh Javdekar, Technical Director of Vilas Javdekar Developers were present. Mr. Vilas Javadekar have agreed to donate Rs. 51 lakhs for the purpose to be decided by COEP and committed support to conduct Regatta for the next two years.
- Mr. Bharat Gite, BOG member and President of the Alumni Association has recently signed a ₹500 crore MoU under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the World Economic Investment Summit 2025 at Davos. This agreement is expected to generate 12,000 new jobs in the Supa industrial area, Ahilyanagar district, contributing to Maharashtra's economic growth.
- The current placement status stands at 71% for UG students and 23% for PG students, and the placement drive is still ongoing.

Resolution 8.6: The Board **NOTED, APPRECIATED and CONGRATULATED** the Cultural Team of the University for their outstanding achievement in winning the prestigious 51st Firodiya Karandak 2025. Their remarkable performance has once again highlighted the University's commitment to excellence in the arts.

Furthermore, the BOG extended heartfelt congratulations to the students and faculty mentors for being selected as one of the top three teams to represent the nation at the upcoming international car racing competition at Germany. This accomplishment underscores the University's dedication to fostering talent in diverse fields.

Additionally, the BOG commended Mr. Bharat Gite for his exceptional performance at the World Economic Investment Summit 2025 held in Davos. His achievements have brought global recognition not only to the State but also to the University.

Lastly, the BOG lauded the Regatta team for their successful organization of the 97th Regatta. This historic event, themed "Sailing Beyond Horizons," was a testament to the University's rich tradition and commitment to excellence in organizing large-scale events.

Action: - VC Office

Item 8.7: Any other point by permission of Chair

Prof. Bhirud informed the Board that the 100th edition of Regatta (Regatta 2028) will take place in March 2028. Hon'ble minister Shri Chandrakant Patil, Hon. Minister for Higher and Technical Education, during the meeting in mantralya informed Prof. Bhirud and Mr. Bharat

Gite that the event should not only be a flagship celebration of COEP Tech but also a celebrated as a significant event for the entire city like an event of Pune City. Accordingly, the necessary preparation should be initiated focusing on creating a necessary facility along with river-cleaning as a priority.

The members suggested implementing a structured program management approach to ensure the successful organization of the 100th Regatta (Regatta 2028) as a Pune citywide event. This includes appointing an appropriate event management agency and forming a dedicated team from the COEP Tech Alumni Association to oversee program execution and coordination.

Resolution 8.7: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the planning and execution of the 100th edition of Regatta as a flagship event for COEP Tech and the Pune city. The university shall initiate preparations, including a river-cleaning project, and adopt a structured program management approach. This will involve appointing an event management agency and forming a dedicated team from the COEP Tech Alumni Association to oversee execution and coordination.

Action: - Director Board of Students Development/Alumni Association

Item 8.8: Development of Comprehensive Software Solutions for Efficient University Operations and Implementation Mechanism.

The Registrar informed the Board of Governors (BOG) that for any university aiming to achieve a prominent position, it is imperative to digitalize all processes and establish an effective, efficient, seamless, and user-friendly Management Information System (MIS). Such a system is crucial for streamlined operations, accurate government reporting, and informed decision-making. Currently, the university relies on an outsourced Management Information System (MIS), which primarily serves requirements of examination section and student registration. Additionally, the university has adopted the E-Samarth portal, a government initiative to manage some of its functions. However, the E-Samarth system does not fully meet the certain critical functions and reports as required by the University.

Given these challenges, it is imperative for COEP to develop its own customized software system to cater to its unique administrative, academic, and operational needs. To achieve this, the following approaches are proposed:

- Recruiting in-house software developers to build and maintain the required applications.
- Outsourcing the development of software solutions tailored to the university's needs.
- Establishing a Section 8 company within COEP to cater to the customized software needs of the University and to provide IT consultancy services to other government institutions and Departments.

He further added that developing an independent system will enhance efficiency, data security, and scalability, allowing the university to streamline operations and reduce dependency on third-party solutions.



Chairman-BOG suggested that the university should explore existing software solutions already in use and customize them to meet its specific requirements, as this would be the fastest approach.

The development and implementation of a comprehensive MIS is vital for the university's operational excellence, regulatory compliance, and strategic growth. The proposed mechanism ensures a structured approach to achieving these objectives.

Dr. Mohitkar supported the idea of establishing a Section 8 company, noting that it would position COEP Tech as a technological solution provider. He also stressed the importance of evaluating governance structures, operational modalities, and ensuring regular updates to the government.

Consequently, the members appreciated the concept and in-principal approved the development of comprehensive software solutions for the University by establishing the section 8 company after thorough assessment of other alternative solutions and suggested to present the feasibility report in the next meeting.

Resolution 8.8: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE IN-PRICIPAL** and suggested to form a committee to study the development of comprehensive software solution either by establishing a Section 8 company within COEP Tech or exploring the alternate solutions.

Action: - Registrar Office

Item 8.9: Discussion on Supreme Court Matters Related to the Termination of BOG-Appointed Faculty.

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor informed the Board members that, as per the resolutions of the 41st BOG meeting held on 9th April 2019 (R-41/2(a)/2019; R-41/2(b)/2019) and the 42nd BOG meeting held on 23rd July 2019 (R-42/4(a)/2019; R-42/4(b)/2019), the then Board of Governors of COEP had recommended filing a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the termination of BOG-appointed faculty.

However, during a meeting held on 21st March 2025 with the Hon'ble Minister and Principal Secretary, Department of Higher & Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra, it was verbally conveyed that, being a government institution, COEP was not expected to file an SLP against the State Government in the first instance.

It was further conveyed during this meeting that the matter should be discussed and deliberated in the forthcoming BOG meeting, particularly with respect to the possibility of withdrawing the SLP filed by COEP in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

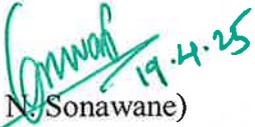
Accordingly, the matter was placed before the Board for discussion and appropriate action.

The Board deliberated on the matter and noted that, as the case was filed and the recommendation was made by the then BOG nearly 4–5 years ago, the current members are not fully aware of the legal implications or consequences of withdrawing the case. Therefore, the Board members suggested that a legal opinion be sought from the Advocate/Counsel representing COEP in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Additionally, legal advice should also be sought from the University's legal advisor.

Resolution 8.8: The Board **RESOLVED** that the University shall obtain a legal opinion from the Advocate/Counsel currently representing COEP in the Hon'ble Supreme Court and also seek advice from the University's legal advisor. The matter, along with the recommendations, shall be tabled in the next BOG meeting for further consideration.

Action: - Registrar Office

The meeting concluded with thanks to the Chair.


(Dr. D. N. Sonawane)
Registrar, Member Secretary


(Mr. Vinayak Pai)
BOG-Chairman

