

Government of West Bengal
Department of Higher Education
College Sponsored Branch
Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700 091

No. 535-Edn(CS)/10M-49/16

Date: 24th June, 2016

From : Smt. Madhumita Ray, IAS,
Secretary,
Higher Education Department,
Govt. of West Bengal.

To : 1. The Director of Public Instruction,
West Bengal,
Bikash Bhavan, 6th Floor, Salt Lake, Kol.-91
2. The Director of Technical Education,
West Bengal
Bikash Bhavan, 10th Floor, Salt Lake, Kol.-91

**Subject: Procurement of high-speed data link or internet / wifi connectivity
by Higher Education Institutions in West Bengal**

The nature and scope of education is changing rapidly. Knowledge is freely available in cyberspace. There is a need to augment the traditional educational methodologies with the latest ITeS-based education solutions. While the State Government is investing heavily in improving the physical and other infrastructure in the higher education space, including filling up vacant teaching posts, it is felt necessary to also harness IT-based learning within the classroom and outside.

2. In this context, it may be recalled that the State Government had allotted funds during 2014-15 to all higher education institutions for the procurement of computer hardware and software, including internet connectivity, which has made possible, among other things, online admissions at the UG and PG levels from the academic session 2015-16.

3. Now, all higher education institutions are hereby advised to arrange for high speed data link/ wifi / internet connectivity so that interested students and others have access to the educational tools in the cyber world. The choice of technology and service providers is left to the individual institutions. They may survey the market for suitable vendors/ telecom service providers, and based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions offered as per the laid down rules and procedures, arrange for the installation of the facility.

4. Based on the information available, it appears that the one-time installation costs and the recurring/ data usage charges thereafter are well within the financial capacity of the State's higher education institutions. Hence, expenditure may be met from each institution's own funds.

5. Suitable spaces may be designated as e-learning zones where students and other stakeholders can freely access the internet. Also, the facility can also be used for live streaming of lectures and electronic sharing of educational resources amongst the State's higher education institutions. Necessary safeguards may be devised to ensure that the wifi link is used only by bonafide users of the institution for bona fide purposes, i.e. accessing educational/ learning material. Safeguards may include, inter alia, registering a fixed number of devices of each user, supplying password, regulating the hours of usage/ data size download limitations, etc.

6. Higher education institutions, particularly the State aided Universities, which are eligible for funding support from MHRD, Government of India under the National Knowledge Network (NKN) may proceed to do the needful immediately to avoid duplication of expenditure. This especially applies to the Universities set up in 2008 and thereafter and include Bankura University, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, Diamond Harbour Women's University, Kazi Nazrul University, Raiganj University, Sidho-Kanho Birsha University, The West Bengal University of Teachers' Training Education Planning & Administration.

7. It is advised that all higher education institutions in the State will arrange for the above-mentioned facilities in a time-bound manner, say, by the end of October 2016.


Sd/- M. Ray
Secretary

No. **535/1(8)-Edn(CS)/10M-49/16**

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Copy forwarded for information and taking necessary action to :-

1. Vice Chancellors, _____ (all universities);
2. The Spl. Secretary, Higher Education Department, Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata-91;
3. The Joint Secretary(University Branch), Higher Education Department, Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 91;
4. The Joint Secretary (IT), Higher Education Department, Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 91. He is requested to upload on the website.
5. The P.S. to MIC, Higher Education Department, Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata -91;
6. The Sr. P.A. to Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 91;
7. Office file;
8. Guard File.


Secretary