

Report of Committee constituted to evaluate the best possible option for setting up permanent infrastructure for NTIPRIT

1. A committee consisting of following members was constituted, vide DoT OM no. 3-32/2019-NTI.Admn dated 15.09.2021, to evaluate the best possible option for setting up of permanent infrastructure for National Telecommunication Institute for Policy Research Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT):

- a) Sh. Uday Kumar Srivastava, Sr. DDG, NTIPRIT - Chairman
- b) Ms. Mousumy Bedekar, DDG(CB&T), DoT HQ - Member
- c) Sh. Balachandra Subramoney Iyer, DDG(C&A) - Member
- d) Ms. Aparajita Sharma, DDG (Trg. Fin), DoT HQ - Member

2. Terms of reference for the committee is defined as under:

- a) The Committee shall evaluate the best possible option for setting up permanent infrastructure for NTIPRIT.
- b) The committee shall assess the land requirement for setting up of NTIPRIT campus and also explore the modalities for utilization of common training facilities with NICF at Ghitorni.
- c) The committee shall submit its report within 30 days of issuance of this OM.

3. All the members of above-mentioned committee met in the chamber of Sr. DDG, NTIPRIT at 12 PM on 2-11-2021. Members of the Committee visited the entire ALTTC campus including Administrative Building, Academic Building, J.C Bose Hostel, Bhabha Hostel, residential quarters, staff quarters, ERP Centre, Satellite Centre, Student Centre and different sports ground etc. Rooms in JC Bose hostel occupied by IFS probationers were also seen by the Committee

4. The Committee's observations are as below:

- a) Hostels are vacant and classrooms are locked thus showing that training activities are not being held at present.
- b) Building maintenance (exterior and interior) is virtually non-existent and facilities/infrastructure is slowly going to seed, showing that non-utilisation of training infrastructure predates the COVID pandemic.
- c) Vegetation inside campus is uncontrolled and sports/support facilities have also become run down.

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5. Further, the Committee visited NICF campus at Ghitorni on 23.11.2021 and met DG-NICF & other officers of NICF & CGCA. NICF campus was shown around by Director (Trg.) NICF to the Committee members. Presently, the academic activities of NICF are being run in the temporary structure of portable cabins. Hostels rooms for probationers are also made up of portable cabins. Some of the buildings of permanent structure are at finishing stages, especially the academic building, Admin building and staff quarters. NICF officials intimated that construction of many buildings are suspended, due to problems in obtaining environmental clearances. It was suggested to the Committee that after the construction of building of NICF there will be no surplus land available in NICF campus for constructing any new building for creation of physical infrastructure for NTIPRIT.

6. Committee Members also visited the WMO campus located opposite to NICF campus at Ghitorni. Approximately 200 Acre campus was fenced with an outer fencing and an inner fencing. Inside the inner fencing of approximately 2.5 acre area, there are three buildings catering to (i) Training (ii) Field Office of WMO and (iii) Wireless equipment installations. Remaining larger portion of the 200 Acre campus is heavily vegetated as forest and is being used only as a buffer zone from the vicinity for the wireless installations.


7. The Committee, as per its mandate, therefore, looked at four options:

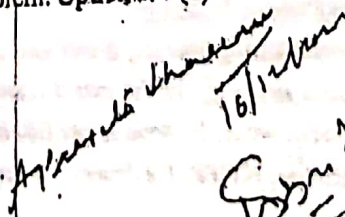
- Utilising the already existing infrastructure in AL TTC Campus for NTIPRIT activities
- Fresh construction on vacant land in the AL TTC campus for NTIPRIT.
- Setting up fresh training facilities at/ sharing existing training facilities with NICF at their Ghitorni campus.
- Setting up fresh training facilities at the under-utilised WMO/Ghitorni Campus, located across the road from the NICF campus.

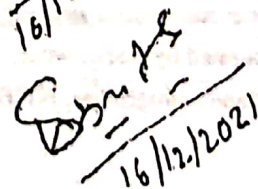
8. As regards the WMO campus at Ghitorni, this is a huge tract of land which is grossly underutilized at present. However, entirely fresh infrastructure would have to be built from the ground up. The cost would be enormous and the likely hurdles in obtaining clearances (including environmental, land use and local bodies/State Government approvals) too arduous and time consuming for this to be a feasible solution to the urgent problem. Option at 7.(d) therefore is not recommended by the Committee.

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9. Fresh/additional infrastructure creation at the NICF campus at Ghitorni too is not a feasible solution given both the space constraints and the environmental clearances' issues already being faced there. Sharing of infrastructure facilities, though technically a possibility, is practically a non-starter given that each Training Institute would like to maintain its distinct character. Logistically also, having some facilities common and the others distinct would not be a workable proposition. The Committee therefore does not recommend option 7 (c) either.
10. The existing Buildings (hostels, Academic Block, Administrative Buildings, Sports & other support services Infrastructure) in the ALLTC Campus are poorly maintained and clearly under-utilised/ non-utilised, but their structural integrity is, *prima facie*, still intact. Repair/refurbishing and other minor works can restore them fairly easily to useable/habitable conditions. As the existing civil and electrical infrastructure has earlier catered to the combined training requirements of ITS, IPTFAS (before NICF was built) and IRRS; fresh construction will not be required for basic infrastructure now that the peak load of trainee numbers has reduced with a separate NICF. For this reason, Option 7 (b) is not recommended either and Option 7 (a) is suggested as the preferred option. This will also enable gainful utilization of assets of the Campus.
11. To operationalize the recommendation of utilizing the existing under-utilised/ non-utilised infrastructure of the ALLTC Campus for NTIPRIT's courses, the Committee recommends the following:
- Administrative control of all infrastructure and assets in ALLTC campus will be made over to NTIPRIT on "as-is-where-is" basis.
 - NTIPRIT will, in consultation with CPWD, finalize the cost of refurbishment/ repairs estimated and seek a one-time cost for such repairs. This will be suitably budgeted. An agreement with CPWD will thereafter be made for ARMO of all Campus Buildings.
 - Apart from NTIPRIT's own training courses, it will also conduct courses for BSNL as per requisitions received. To the extent feasible, scheduling of Courses requested by BSNL would be done as per BSNL's request, but in case of overlap/contingencies, NTIPRIT's decision would be final.

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d) Apart from BSNL, courses for IRRS and other CPSEs of DoT would also be conducted by NTIPRIT to the extent feasible, keeping in view the need to fully utilize training facilities.

e) Delegation of powers and provision of additional support staff to NTIPRIT, whether from regular departmental sources or from outsourcing of manpower/loan from BSNL would be worked out separately. Reporting channels (except for the ERP Centre and Satellite Earth Station, which would continue with existing Reporting structures) would also be worked out appropriately, keeping the NTIPRIT's position of Administrative head of the Campus in view.

f) The administrative arrangement at (b) above will be entirely without prejudice to the legal position and final decision regarding transfer of assets/ ownership from BSNL to DoT, which is being separately dealt with, on file.

12. The Committee therefore recommends handing over administrative control over all the assets/infrastructure of the ALTTC campus (except the ERP Centre and Satellite Earth Station assets & personnel) to NTIPRIT to run training courses of not only ITS officers but also for BSNL. In addition, training for IRRS and other DoT units to the extent feasible will be undertaken by NTIPRIT to ensure full utilization of training resources. The implementation methodology for this is suggested as per para 11 above. Considering the imperatives of the fast-changing technology scenario and the urgent need of NTIPRIT to set up lab infrastructure for security, ICT, Big Data, and IoT test bed for industry vertical wise use cases, the Committee requests consideration and approval of its recommendations for priority implementation.

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