Subject: Minutes of 32nd Meeting of Project Approval Board (PAB) of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) - regarding

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of the minutes of 32nd Meeting of Project Approval Board (PAB) of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) held on 20.05.2016 at 11:00 A.M., for information and necessary action.

(K. D. Verma)
Under Secretary (TEL)
TEL No. 011-23073582

To,

1. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, M/o HRD
2. Additional Secretary (TE), M/o HRD
3. Representative of Department of Expenditure
4. Representative of NITI Aayog
5. Representative of Department of Telecommunication
6. Representative of Department of Space
7. Representative of Department of Science & Technology
8. Representative of Department of Bio-Technology
9. Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation
10. Representative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
11. Two representatives of Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY)
12. Director, Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneshwar
13. Director, Indian Institute of Technology Mandi
14. Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing (IIIT) Kancheepuram
15. Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (IIIT) Gwalior
16. Director, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Jaipur
17. Director, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala
18. One Representative from National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)
19. One Representative from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) / Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) / Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)
20. One Representative from Manufacturers’ Association for Information Technology (MAIT)
21. Three experts in the area of e-Education nominated by the Chairperson:-
   (i) Shri. Gautam Shroff, Vice President & Chief Scientist, TCS Innovation Labs Delhi
   (ii) Prof. Pankaj Jalote, Director, IIIT Delhi
   (iii) Shri. F. C. Kohli, Chairman, CoE, Pune and Founder, TCS
22. JS & FA, Department of Higher Education, M/o HRD
Copy to:-

1. Director (TE), M/o HRD
2. DS (ICT), M/o HRD
3. Shri Pradeep Kaul, Sr. Consultant, NMEICT
4. Shri Parameswaran N., Sr. Consultant, NMEICT
5. Shri Pradip Chanda, Sr. Consultant, NMEICT

Copy for information & necessary action to:-

1. Project Manager (NMEICT) – for information and necessary action.
2. Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Project Coordinator, SAKSHAT Portal, IGNOU – for uploading it on Sakshat Portal.
MINUTES OF THE 32nd MEETING OF "PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD" OF NATIONAL MISSION ON EDUCATION THROUGH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (NMEICT) HELD ON 20TH MAY, 2016 AT 11:00 HRS AT CONFERENCE ROOM, ROOM NO. 112, SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI - 110 001.

The 32nd Meeting of the Empowered Committee of Experts (Project Approval Board (PAB)) of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) was held on 20th MAY, 2016 At 11:00 Hrs. at Conference Room, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi, under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD.

The list of Members and Invitees, who participated in the Meeting, is at Annexure-I.

Mission Director (NMEICT) welcomed the Members of the PAB and informed them about the Agenda in brief. Thereafter, with the permission of the Chair, the Agenda Items were discussed and the following decisions were taken:

Agenda Item No. I: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 31st PAB meeting held on 3rd December 2015.

Member Secretary, PAB, invited observations from the Members on the Minutes of the 31st Meeting of the PAB. Since all the Members agreed and no observations on the Minutes were received from any Member, the Minutes of the 31st Meeting of the PAB held on 3rd December, 2016 were, confirmed.

Agenda Item No. II: The "Action Taken Report" on the Minutes of the 31st Meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) held on 3rd December 2015 are placed as under.

The committee reviewed the "Action Taken Report" on the Minutes of 31st Meeting of the Project Approval Board of NMEICT, held on 3rd December, 2015, which was placed in Agenda Papers. The PAB further offered its comments on some of the past issues as under:

Agenda IV C (5):
The PAB directed that the enquiry into the use of funds by the ILLL shall be completed at the earliest and report submitted to the PAB within one month time.

Agenda IV C (15):
The PAB directed that the report of the fact-finding team shall be submitted within two months.
Agenda IV C (20):
In accordance with the decision of the PAB, the PI was asked to re-submit its proposal on 'Distribute digitized answer book evaluation' project and was requested to make a presentation before the DEC (Domain Expert Committee), which the PI failed to follow. The PAB suggested the project is of importance and we need not abandon the project. But the PI can be changed and States like Karnataka which have done a lot of work in this field may be asked to become the PI and run the project.

Agenda IV C (22):
The members desired that before the last installment of the project is released to the PI, the file be put up for examination of the IFD. The PAB agreed that PI of the project should be asked to submit ‘Project Closure Report’ in the prescribed format and confirm to the MHRD that the deliverables of the project have been put to proper use. It was however desired that fund settlement of the project should be done in a month time.

Agenda S. No 14 and 15
Resubmission of proposal on 'Establishment of Hotspot / Wi-Fi Campus Connect at Central Universities' after due diligence and considering 'Modalities for execution of the Wi-Fi Project'. PAB noted that UGC is being asked to do the tendering and implementing Wi-Fi in 38 Central Universities.

Agenda Item No. III: Providing NKN Connectivity to universities (Horizontal Connectivity)
The members were briefed that the proposal involves extending NKN connectivity to all the Universities/campus. In Higher Education, as on date there are 896 universities/campus. Of these, 600 universities/campus are at present connected to NKN through 1 Gbps link. So NKN connectivity is to be extended to the remaining 296 universities/campus.

The proposal was to extend 1 Gbps link to each of the 296 university/campus, which are not connected to NKN. The 3rd bandwidth Negotiation Committee (for NKN) has finalized the rates for 1 Gpbs link to NKN. BSNL, RailTel & PGCIL are 3 approved PSUs to provide connectivity. MHRD bears 75% of the cost and the university/college share is 25%. This ratio is 90:10 in case of North Eastern Region.

PAB discussion/ recommendation:
It was pointed out to the PAB that, as per the minutes of the 28th PAB meeting held on 26th June, 2014, agenda item no. 11, it is recorded that "The proposal for providing 1 Gbps connectivity to any new university/institution should be taken up with due approval of Cabinet".

PAB after discussion felt that Cabinet approval is not required to be sought again, since the Cabinet has already approved connectivity to university/institution under NMEICT.

PAB after detailed discussion on the issues, decided the following:
1) There should be some priority in providing the NKN connectivity to the Universities and it should be as follows.
i) Universities funded fully or partly by Center.
ii) State Universities
iii) Private and Deemed Universities.

2) The bandwidth provided should be proportionate to the Number of Students in the University. 1 Gbps upto 3000 students and 2 Gbps beyond 3000 students.

3) The Private or deemed Universities considered for provision of NKN connectivity should have NAAC accreditation.

4) Since 25% (10% in case of NE states) of the cost is to be met by the Universities/colleges, MHRD may write to all the 296 universities/colleges to ascertain their willingness to share the cost. Only those Universities/colleges who express their willingness to share 25% of the cost, would be considered.

5) Since the PSUs are empanelled by NKN for providing connectivity, it was decided that NKN may be asked to provide connectivity to the universities identified by MHRD.

Agenda Item No. IV: Connectivity of College to parent university (Vertical Connectivity)

The Members were briefed that in Higher Education there are about 38,000 colleges and about 12,000 stand alone institutions, of these 22,029 colleges have been provided with connectivity. So around 28,000 colleges are to be provided connectivity. These colleges can be connected through MPLS cloud link to the university and can be covered in phased manner. The 3rd bandwidth Negotiation Committee (for NKN) has finalized the rates for MPLS link. BSNL, RailTel & PGCIL are 3 approved PSUs to provide connectivity. MHRD bears 75% of the cost and the college share is 25%. This ratio is 90:10 in case of North Eastern Region.

The PAB approved in principle the proposal for linking the Government colleges with the University NKN connection for the purpose of better administration and use of the internet and NKN services by all students. The PAB further directed that:

a) All the Universities may be addressed to seek readiness of the affiliated Government Colleges for sharing the 25% cost of the project, and communicate the same to the MHRD before 31st July, 2016.

b) From this list, all the Government colleges can be selected for implementation of the project in the year 2016-17.

c) The NKN may be the PI for the project for providing MPLS connectivity to the colleges identified by MHRD to their parent university, and thereby access the NKN services.

Agenda Item No. V: Wi-Fi access facility on OPEX model

The PAB was informed, after extending the NKN and internet connectivity to the Universities/colleges the next step is to provide access to the faculty and students so that they can use the same. The proposal is to provide Wi-Fi facility to the faculty and students for accessing the NKN and internet on an OPEX model.

M/S BSNL submitted a proposal in this regard which was examined by the DEC. The DEC while recommending the project observed that local traffic of the institution must remain local, so that there is free flow of local data traffic and it is not dependent on any
external link. Based on the suggestion of DEC, BSNL proposed 2 options:

i) **BSNL Original Offer (Option-1):** centralized WAC architecture @ Rs. 130/Student/Month/4GB

ii) **BSNL Revised Offer (Option-2):** Centralized WAC architecture with additional Distributed WACs and existing Radius Servers/UTM box etc at the Universities/Colleges @ Rs. 160/Student/Month/4GB and additional one time capex of Rs. 15 crores.

The PAB discussed the issue and felt that in order to do price discovery, at least (10) pilot projects shall be done by various telecom service providers before the proposal is examined for expansion. The PAB decided that the Additional Secretary, Department of Telecom may hold a meeting of all Telecom Service Providers (TSP) to run pilot projects, in at least (10) Government colleges having post-graduate courses and affiliated to a University, using their CSR funds. After evaluating the costs involved, suitable decision can be taken for scaling up the project to all Colleges in phases.

**Agenda Item No. VI: Extension for all continuing NMEICT Projects, from 31st March 2016 till 31st March, 2017.**

Mission Secretariat (NMEICT) informed the PAB that as approved in 31st PAB, nine PRSGs have been formed to review the projects under NMEICT. Till date 14 meetings of PRSGs have been conducted. The PIs of these projects have requested for extension of projects till 31st March, 2017, since some projects were sanctioned in 2014 & 2015.

The members were also briefed that DEC-Content in its third meeting held on 2nd May, 2016 has also recommended extension of all active projects till 31st March 2017 and this is further in timelines with the extension granted to NMEICT Mission itself by the Govt of India, till 31st March, 2017.

The PAB approved the extension of all continuing Project, from 31st March, 2016 till 31st March, 2017 as recommended by the DEC-Content in its third meeting held on 2nd May 2016.

**Agenda Item No. VII: Enhancement of rate of production of e-Content at Post Graduate level subjects by UGC under the NMEICT project.**

The PAB was informed that the UGC in a letter dated 26th November 2015 has raised a concern on cost difference in funding given per module for PG programmes to UGC and UG programmes to CEC. UGC in its letter is requesting to enhance the cost per module to UGC (development of PG e-Content) at par with the cost approved by the PAB for the CEC; since both the programmes are similar and run under the NMEICT programme of MHRD.

The DEC has recommended the enhancement of funds for production of PG e-content, on the same lines as was approved by the PAB for CEC. The DEC further recommended that UGC e-PG project be extended till 31st December 2017. The PAB may take a view on the applicability of the enhanced Honorarium in terms of time, prospective or otherwise.
The PAB approved rate of production of e-Content, in Post Graduate level, awarded to UGC, under NMEICT, at the rate approved by the PAB.

**Agenda Item No. VIII: Ratification of MOOCs Guidelines.**

The PAB ratified the MOOCs Guidelines, as approved by the Secretary (HE), in his capacity as Chairman, PAB.

**Agenda Item No. IX: Additional Recommendations by 3rd DEC- content**

The PAB was briefed that the DEC in its 3rd meeting held on 2nd May, 2016, sought to know from PAB, if the PAB wants the DEC to offer suggestion on the following.

(i) Should the NMEICT come up with some guidelines on how to sustain the projects that are operational (should the projects be monetized or make it self-sufficient) and
(ii) Issues like scaling, continuum, branding and support service to users should be addressed with clarity by the Ministry.

The PAB approved the suggestion and requests the DEC to offer recommendations and come up with Guidelines on (i) how to sustain the projects that are operational (should the projects be monetized or make it self-sufficient) and (ii) Issues like scaling, continuum, branding and support service to users that should be addressed with clarity by the Ministry, as soon as possible.

**Agenda Item No. X: Implementation of DTH-OMG recommendations, regarding MHRD DTH programme**

The PAB was informed that Direct to Home - Operational & Monitoring Group (DTH-OMG) was reconstituted by MHRD vide letter No. 01-01/2014 TEL dated 3rd May 2016. The Group held its meeting under the chairmanship of Director IIT Gandhinagar on 16th May 2016 at IIT Gandhinagar. The Group deliberated and recommended immediate initiation of the DTH channels.

After examining the report of the OMG, the PAB approved the recommendation of the DTH-OMG and decided as follows:

(i) Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL) will be the PI for operationalising the 32 DTH channels by procuring the necessary infrastructure which has been projected at Rs. 30 Cr. They will act in conjunction with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG) for this purpose.

(ii) The Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geo-Informatics(BISAG) will be the PI for Operations and maintenance of the channels at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs per channel per year (Rs. 40 lakhs x 32 = Rs. 1280 lakhs per year). These channels will be operated on MPEG-2 technology, which is the current technology being used by the Doordarshan.

(iii) The amount of Rs. 49 crore released to IIT Madras for the purpose of implementing the DTH project transferred as following: Rs. 25 crore to ECIL for placing orders for the infrastructure and Rs. 20 crore to Department of Space towards payment for the two transponders.
(iv) The Department of Space has agreed to consider waiving off the past dues on the above payment and would operationalise the two transponders on GSAT-15.

(v) All the National MOOCs Coordinators should be asked to convert their video lessons into MPEG2 format and transfer the same to BISAG forthwith for uploading on the DTH channels. This will provide about 15,000 hours of educational transmission straightaway.

(vi) Further, live classrooms can be transmitted from ten Teaching Ends (TE) out of which six will be IITs located at Madras, Bombay, Delhi, Kharagpur, Kanpur and Guwahati. In all there shall be around 20 Teaching Ends for transmitting the e-content for DTH channels.

(vii) Allotment of channels shall be done in order to ensure that each Channel is anchored by a Coordinator, who shall be responsible for the quality of the content placed on that.

Agenda Item No. XI : Entrusting the work of Development of SWAYAM Platform to AICTE as a Project Implementing Agency

The PAB has noted that since the bidding process for identifying System Integrator for building SWAYAM Platform did not yield any result, it has been decided that the SWAYAM Platform shall be built in-house under the leadership of AICTE, working with PwC which is the Project Management Consultant for the project.

The PAB ratified the above decision taken by the Chairman, PAB and decided that the project funds shall be transferred to AICTE who will do the procurement process as per the guidelines laid under GFR duly utilizing the rate contract facilities already available through NICSI/ DGS&D.

Agenda Item No. XII: Budget Estimate for TSG-EdCIL & Mission Secretariat of NMEICT for the Financial Year 2016-17.

The PAB was informed that the Mission Secretariat consisting of a Technical Support Group (TSG-EdCIL) and provides administrative and logistic support to the Bureau is being managed by the EdCIL @ 1% of the total expenditure on the project. The EdCIL represented that due to stabilization of many projects, the actual financial outflow has slowed down, but the administrative expenses remained the same. They have asked for providing a budget of Rs. 369.63 lakhs instead of linking it with expenditure.

The IFD has remarked that instead of allowing absolute amounts, it would be proper to revise the administrative charges to 1.5% or so.

The PAB decided that in the circumstances stated, adequate resources shall be made available to the EdCIL for running the project. The actuals can be vetted by the IFD before releasing the same.
### ATTENDANCE SHEET

**Meeting:** 32nd PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD (PAB) UNDER NATIONAL MISSION ON EDUCATION THROUGH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY.

**Date/Time:** 20th May, 2016 at 11.00 hrs

**Venue:** Conference Room No.112-C Wing (First Floor), MHRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

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Meeting: 32\textsuperscript{nd} PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD (PAB) UNDER NATIONAL MISSION ON EDUCATION THROUGH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY.

Date/Time: 20\textsuperscript{th} May, 2016 at 11.00 hrs

Venue: Conference Room No.112-C Wing (First Floor), MHRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

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<td>26)</td>
<td>Praveen Kumar&lt;br&gt;Consultant, MHRD</td>
<td>Ph.:&lt;br&gt;Mo.: 9410400519&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:crispraveenkumair@gmail.com">crispraveenkumair@gmail.com</a>&lt;br&gt;Fax:</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
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<td>27)</td>
<td>Aloha Agnihotri&lt;br&gt;Delhi&lt;br&gt;RailTel Corporation of India&lt;br&gt;Gurgaon</td>
<td>Ph.:&lt;br&gt;Mo.: 9818041486&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:avagnihotri@railandindia.com">avagnihotri@railandindia.com</a>&lt;br&gt;Fax: 0124-4236084</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
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</table>
| 28)   | Parsad Kumar Masson<br>J.G.M/F<br>RailTel | Ph.: 49197647107<br>Mo.:<br>Email: masson@railetindia.com<br>Fax: | [Signature]
| 29)   | Sanjai Kumar<br>Spii/Project<br>RailTel | Ph.:<br>Mo.: 9717644107<br>Email: SANTAI@RAILTELINDIA.COM<br>Fax: | [Signature] |
| 30)   | sanmugam Paidal<br>Power Grid | Ph.:<br>Mo.: 8826896865<br>Email: sanmugampaidal@powergridindia.com<br>Fax: | [Signature] |
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<td>31)</td>
<td>GM (Telecom) Power Grid 8-9,bullab (Mth. Ang, Kathwai, Soni)</td>
<td>Ph.: 9910377990 Mob.No.: 011-26560040 Email: bidyut.powergridindia.com</td>
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<td>32)</td>
<td>S. M. P. Rate</td>
<td>Ph.: 987208783 Mob.No.: Email: sampatec.powergridindia.com</td>
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<td>33)</td>
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<td>35)</td>
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<td>RAJASEKHAR.KC. G M (DP), BSNL, HYDERABAD</td>
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<td>37)</td>
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<td>38)</td>
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<td>39)</td>
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<td>40)</td>
<td>CHANDAN CHAWLA Consultant NMEICT</td>
<td>Ph.: Mob.No.: Email: <a href="mailto:chandan.co@nmeict.ac">chandan.co@nmeict.ac</a> Fax:</td>
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