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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Technical Education, Training & Skill Development Department
Action Area: III, Plot No. B-7, New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata-700160

NOTIFICATION

No. I/537604/2024

Date: 19/07/2024

Whereas the State Government has been considering the matter of setting up Centres of Excellence under the Technical Education Training and Skill Development Department to introduce new, fresh and sustainable technologies that could become mainstream in future.

And whereas West Bengal State Council of Technical and Vocational Education and Skill Development (WBSCTVESD) is mandated under the West Bengal State Council of Technical and Vocational Education and Skill Development Act 2013 "to promote research and development in the entire system through the institutes under its affiliation or similar institutes".

And whereas Centres of Excellence (CoEs) are proposed to be set up at Government Polytechnics under affiliation of WBSCTVESD, for enhancement of technical knowledge.

And whereas the objective of creation of CoEs is to create a synergy between industry, academia and the institutes of technical training so that the gap between technological advancement, and industry requirement for manpower with required knowledge at present and in future is minimised.

And whereas these centres will also act as Research and Development Centres, incubation points for innovative ideas, new patents and entrepreneurs.

And whereas The Finance Department gave its concurrence to the proposal vide U.O. No: Group B/2023-2024/0198 dated-21/11/2023.

And whereas, the State Cabinet has approved the policy for creation of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) at Government Polytechnics in its meeting dated-26.06.2024 and approved the notification of the vide Cabinet Sectt. U/O No. CAB(D)-1020 dt: 27-06-2024.

Now, therefore, in consideration of all the above, the policy for creation of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) at Government Polytechnics, 2024, is hereby notified, as appended with this Notification with immediate effect and shall remain in force for five years or until further orders whichever is earlier.

By order of the Governor,

ANOOP KUMAR AGRAWAL
Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

Policy for Creation of Centres of Excellence at Government Polytechnics

1. Preliminary

This Policy document relates to setting up Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under the Technical Education Training and Skill Development Department to explore the new, fresh and sustainable technologies that could become mainstream in future. Centres of Excellence are proposed to be set up at Government Polytechnics for enhancement of technical knowledge. The objective of creation of CoEs is to create a synergy between industry, academia and the institutes of technical training so that the gap between technological advancement, the creation of manpower with required knowledge and industry requirement for such manpower at present and in future is minimised. These centres will act as incubation points for innovative ideas, new patents and entrepreneurs.

The Policy for setting up the Centres of Excellence in the Polytechnics will come into effect from the date of adoption for a period of 5 years or till there is a need for a change in policy due to transformational change in technology resulting in technical and vocational education whichever is earlier.

Centres of Excellence (CoEs) should have its focus on 'Transform the Business'- i.e. to look beyond the "As Is" - a CoE is expected to be an innovation hub to drive core business transformation with innovative yet practical solutions while maintaining strategic alignment across the organization.

A CoE will function as a research and innovation hub for the sector. To this extent the CoE is mandated to

- A. Identify baseline technical and professional standard for the sector
- B. Engage with experts globally for knowledge and technology transfer
- C. Identify future oriented aspects/solutions that could become mainstream over the next 5- 10 years
- D. Create milestones and reporting mechanism to identify the growth story
- E. Document evidences of success story for buy-in from major stakeholder especially industries

2. Objective of Creating Centre of Excellence in Government Polytechnic

A Centre of Excellence is considered critical for the industrial development driven by technology to

- 2.1 Identify latest and future technology.
- 2.2 Identify skill gaps across levels in these areas.
- 2.3 Provide facility to support skill training across all levels as per global standards.
- 2.4 Collaborate for internationally acceptable Accreditation and Certification.
- 2.5 Set up facility for research and development and innovation.
- 2.6 Documenting the piloting efforts of CoE and success stories to help in transformation in technology.
- 2.7 Gradual deployment of resources and manpower with knowledge of future technology in sync with the technological progression/ adoption by the industry.

3. Centre of Excellence-Basic features of CoE

- 3.1 Should function on a self-sustaining revenue model
- 3.2 Should have flexibility in management to collaborate with industry and academia experts nationally and globally to fit the needs of stakeholders
- 3.3 Should have flexibility to provide advanced training to students and faculty as per globally recognised standards.
- 3.4 Should integrate regular Training of Teachers (TOT) and training of other stakeholders including industry workforce
- 3.5 Should hold seminar and workshop facility for publication of technical and research papers/ documenting success stories
- 3.6 Should ensure transformation of technology against measurable KPIs for replicability and adaptability.

4. Centre of Excellence-Desirable Features:

- 4.1 Create network with ancillary industries in the area where students can intern, get apprenticeship and get On Job Training.
- 4.2 Create network of degree institutes, polytechnics, ITI s and vocational schools to be tied up with the facility for skilling, upskilling, fresh skilling in new age technology.

- 4.3 Create network with similar CoE facilities elsewhere in the country or abroad for knowledge and technology exchange.
- 4.4 Create tinkering labs and incubation centers to be funded by stakeholders and encourage youth to foray into innovative entrepreneurship

5 Functioning and Management of Center of Excellence

5.1. Identification of Academia/ Industry partner for CoE

- 5.1.1. West Bengal State Council of Technical and Vocational Education and Skill Development (WBSCTVESD) under the direction of Technical Education Training and Skill Development Department would partner with industry giants that are globally recognized tech giants directly.
- 5.1.2. Global industry/corporate/institutional partners to be roped through open expression of interest.
- 5.1.3. The academic institutes that have global or national ranking and having repute in the area of expertise, will be partner with WBSCTVESD in each of these CoEs
- 5.1.4. Mapping of all state created resources at any government institute, of similar nature will be done to ensure de-duplication of resources.
- 5.1.5. Industries/institutes will be made collaborators based on their contribution to the CoE over bringing in new technology, funding, or as a major stakeholder in training for viability.
- 5.1.6. The decision of inclusion/exclusion of institutes/industries as partners /collaborators will be based on the decision of the Advisory Committee.

5.2. Management of CoEs set up at Government Polytechnics

- 5.2.1. All CoEs set up in the government polytechnics will operate under the ownership of the state government.
- 5.2.2. State Government will be a part of management of CoEs. As part of this structure the Government of West Bengal will be able to
 - 5.2.2.1 Align and shape the strategic direction of the State's technology transition as per its policies
 - 5.2.2.2 Instill confidence among value chain players
 - 5.2.2.3 Attract greater investments from industry players,
 - 5.2.2.4 Partner with various public and private parties, both for funding and delivery.

6. There will be a separate management structure for each of the CoEs set up.

6.1. Composition of the Managing Committee

- 6.1.1 Members of teaching faculty of polytechnics relating to the sector on deputation
- 6.1.2 Representative of industry/industries
- 6.1.3 Representative of academia/institutes
- 6.1.4 Representative from corporate body sending an optimal level of trainers for training
- 6.1.5. Principal of the institute where CoE is set up-Convenor.

6.2. The Managing Committee will be aided by an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will determine

- 6.2.1. The KPIs and Milestone for CoE
- 6.2.2. Undertake periodic survey to understand industry need
- 6.2.3. Undertake study on skill gap and determine nature of training to be given
- 6.2.4. Identify and collaborate for sourcing of fund
- 6.2.5. Industry and academic composition in the management committee
- 6.2.6. Any other decision that needs to be taken for development of the CoE

6.3. Composition of the Advisory Committee

- 6.3.1. Representative of TET & SD – Chairperson
- 6.3.2. Representative from WBSCTVED – Convenor
- 6.3.3. Representative of donor agency/industry, where applicable
- 6.3.4. Representative of academia
- 6.3.5. Representative of concerned Line Departments

7. Resource Requirement

7.1. Funding and Revenue generation of CoE

- 7.1.1 All CoE has to be a revenue generating entity

- 7.1.2. All training at CoE will be charged
- 7.1.3. The fees structure may be staggered depending on the levels of course, duration of course, usage of consumables, equipment and machineries.
- 7.1.4. Management may decide on staggering of fees depending on nature/profile of trainees. the fee structuring will be such that the CoE is self-sustaining within 3-5 years.
- 7.1.5. The fees to be charged from different categories of trainees will be decided by the management committee subject to the capping set for training as per recommendation of Advisory Committee.
- 7.1.6. However, initial funding may be from
 - 7.1.6.1. CSR funding
 - 7.1.6.2. WBSCTVESD may set aside a sum of 100 lakh/per sector per year upto 3(Three) years for setting up CoE from its internal revenue for tools and equipment or softwares etc.
 - 7.1.6.3. Tools and equipment may be provided by industries where the lab is jointly set up with industries.
- 7.1.7. The Managing Committee under aegis of Advisory Committee will have the options of seeking private participation and funding which could be provided by donor agencies through strategic partnerships.
- 7.1.8. The Managing Committee of the CoE will look for provision for funding for operations and development cost including research and development, incubation Centre etc.
- 7.1.9. Funding avenues that may be explored would include corporates, donor agencies and investors,
 - 7.1.9.1. Donor support for institution/initiative level funding
 - 7.1.9.2. Corporate funding
 - 7.1.9.3. Partnership with academic institutions
 - 7.1.9.4. Partnership with innovation funds/start-ups.
 - a. The Managing Committee can earmark not more than 10% of its revenue as Administrative Cost to run the functioning of the CoE . In the first 3 (three) years, till the CoE attends viability this cost may be borne by WBSCTVESD subject to a maximum of 5 years.
 - b. If the CoE does not attend viability within 5 years, the Advisory Committee will consider a viability study and may recommend closure of the facility.

7.2. Faculty and Mentor

- 7.2.1. Faculty will be placed on deputation from the polytechnics / other engineering/ academic institutes as agreed upon with the TET &SD Department, Line Departments and Higher Education Department.
- 7.2.2. Guest faculties may be roped in from other institutions across globe and industries.
- 7.2.3. Mentoring network would be created with a mix of people from corporate, academic and start-up backgrounds, for all those who are skilled in the facility for encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship.
- 7.2.4. Any other manpower requirement will be from within the system. No separate manpower will be hired for running the CoEs

7.3. Infrastructure Requirement

- 7.3.1. All CoEs are to be set up within the premises of government polytechnics. There will be no additional land/ building cost.
- 7.3.2. There may be requirement for building special workshop in certain cases which will be handled from the Departmental budget.
- 7.3.3. Requirement for tools and equipment/ licensed software for setting up the latest technology labs for training will be borne by WBSCTVESD for initial 3 years.
- 7.3.4. The initial cost for setting up the labs may be borne by the concerned Industry or by WBSCTVESD from its internal revenue
- 7.3.5. The laboratory and workshop may also be set up by the industry out of their own cost/CSR fund. In such cases the industry partner will be part of the Management and may/may not have a share in the revenue, to be determined by the Advisory Committee.