

TIME LIMIT

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

No. L4/3246/2026/DTE

Dated: 17-08-2026

CIRCULAR

Sub: Higher Education - Technical - Directorate of Technical Education - Guidelines and Directives for Renewal of Internet/Broadband Services and NKN Connections across Institutions under DTE - Reg.

Ref: Minutes of the Network Committee, Dated - 05/08/2026

As per reference read 1st above, the Network Committee of the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) recently reviewed and scrutinized proposals submitted by various institutions under DTE regarding the renewal of National Knowledge Network (NKN) and local Broadband/ISP subscriptions.

During the evaluation, the Committee observed the following critical issues:

- **Lack of Technical Justification:** Institutions failed to justify whether their campus operations specifically require an NKN connection or a standard ISP Broadband connection.
- **Underutilization of NKN Features:** Additional specialized features provided through NKN are not being effectively utilized.
- **Price Discrepancies:** Significant price variations exist among quotes provided by the same Internet Service Provider (ISP) across different institutions and districts.

To ensure transparency, optimize financial expenditure, and obtain high-quality internet services, all Principals/Heads of Institutions are hereby directed to comply with the following instructions immediately:

A. Competitive Open Tendering

Direct renewal/extension of existing ISP subscriptions without competitive procurement is strictly prohibited. Institutions must invite competitive bids through an **Open Tender** process to leverage market competition and secure optimal commercial terms and bandwidth quality.

B. Funding Source

All expenses towards ISP/Broadband subscription fees shall be met exclusively from the institution's **Plan Fund** or **Self-Generated Funds** (e.g., PTA, Continuing Education Cell, or other permissible local funds).

C. Mandatory Technical Requirements in Tender Documents

All tender specifications issued by institutions must explicitly include the following mandatory criteria:

1. **Static IP Facility:** Dedicated static IP allocation to maintain uninterrupted access to internal systems and hosted services.

2. **High Availability & Reliability:** Guaranteed uptime SLAs with robust, high-availability network architecture.
3. **Scalability:** Provision for seamless bandwidth upgrades to accommodate future institutional demands.
4. **Optimal Bandwidth Capacity:** Bandwidth capacity tailored to actual campus utilization and student/staff requirements.
5. **Maintenance:** Ensure periodical and prompt maintenance of the entire system.

D. Submission and Final Approval Process

1. Upon completion of the Open Tender process, institutions must prepare a comparative statement of quotes received.
2. The institution must submit the received quotes along with a detailed **Technical Justification Statement** explaining the choice between NKN and other ISPs.
3. Final approval and further instructions will be issued following a review meeting of the DTE Network Committee upon receipt of the proposals.

All Head of Institutions are requested to complete the whole process within 02/09/2026 and forward details on or before 03/09/2026 3 PM without fail to Planning L4 section through E-Office only.

Dr. JAYAPRAKASH P
DIRECTOR

To:

1. Head of all Institutions concerned (through DTE Website)
2. CA to DTE (through E-Office only)
3. SA, DTE (through E-Office only)
4. OC/SF

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