



**MINUTES OF THE 43RD MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 23RD JUNE AT 3.00 PM IN THE OOM ROOM, NIT
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI**

PRESENT:

1. Dr. (Mrs.) Mini Shaji Thomas Director & Chairperson In-charge
2. Shri. Madan Mohan Member*
ADG, MHRD
3. Ms. Darshana M. Dabral Member*
JS & FA, MHRD
4. Thiru. Karumuttu T. Kannan Member*
5. Dr. S. Kumanan Member
6. Shri. A. Palanivel Member Secretary
7. Dr. L. Cindrella Special Invitee

* Through Video Conferencing

GENERAL MATTERS

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON
IN-CHARGE, FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT, Tiruchirappalli & Chairperson In-charge, Finance Committee welcomed the Members to the Meeting. She specially thanked the Ministry officials Shri. Madan Mohan and Ms. Darshana M. Dabral for sparing time and attending. Thereafter, the Registrar initiated the deliberations on the Agenda Items.

ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 42ND

Minutes of the 43rd Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23rd June 2020

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON
14TH DECEMBER 2019**

The Minutes of the 42nd Meeting of the Finance Committee (FC) were circulated to the Members and no comments were received, the FC confirmed the Minutes.

RESOLUTION **RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the 42nd
43/FC/2020/1 Meeting of the Finance Committee be
confirmed.

**ITEM NO.2 ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE DECISIONS OF THE
42ND MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

The Action Taken Report of the previous meetings of the Finance Committee were discussed and noted with the following observations.

- (i) **42/FC/2019/3:** The first installment (one-third) of the total cost of two projects namely, vertical expansion of Lecture Hall Complex (Rs. 17.57 crores) and Opal (Girls Hostel, Rs.14.49 crores), amounting to Rs.10.63 Crore was released to CPWD on 17.02.2020 from the Internal Revenue savings of the Institute.
- (ii) **42/FC/2019/5:** Regarding the implementation of EWS, due to COVID-19 pandemic, MHRD is contemplating to request Institutes to defer the implementation of EWS during the academic year, 2020-2021.

RESOLUTION **RESOLVED THAT** the Action taken on the
43/FC/2020/2 decisions of the earlier FCs be noted with the
following observations.

- The first installment (one-third) of the total cost of two infrastructure projects namely, vertical expansion of Lecture Hall Complex (Rs. 17.57 crores) and Opal

(Girls Hostel, Rs.14.49 crores), amounting to Rs.10.63 Crore was released to CPWD on 17.02.2020 from the Internal Revenue savings of the Institute.

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic, MHRD is contemplating to request Institutes to defer the implementation of EWS during the academic year, 2020-2021.

APPROVAL ITEMS

ITEM NO.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SPONSORED CHAIRS BY CORPORATES AND ALUMNI - TERM CHAIR FOR YOUNG FACULTY FUNDED BY THE INFOSYS FOUNDATION.

(i) The Institute, through the Office of the Dean (Institutional Development & Alumni Relations (ID & AR)), and after due deliberations in the meetings of Deans, had floated the concept of establishment of sponsored Chairs. Varieties of sponsored Chairs to be established from external resources – such as from alumni, from corporates and from Foundation. The Sponsored Chairs may be established for the purpose covering stipend for Ph. D scholars, certain research expenses recurring expenses, and a Chair honorarium for the faculty appointed to the Chair, and overhead expenses. The sponsor shall be given naming rights and the option to define the area and the department in which Chair is to be created. The Institute shall, in consultation with the sponsor, identify the faculty to be appointed to the (proposed) Chair. In exceptional cases, where the sponsor is keen on honoring a particular faculty (by name) with a sponsored Chair, on professional grounds, the same shall be permitted. The Institute shall evolve guidelines for monitoring the progress of any Chair (work performed by the Chair faculty and the PhD student supported by the Chair).

(ii) In line with the above, Institute is keen to have a Chair sponsored by the Infosys Foundation in NIT Tiruchirappalli. The sponsor shall offer a sum of Rs.36.54 Lakhs (Rupees Thirty-Six Lakhs and Fifty-Four Thousand only), to establish the above Chair. The proposed Chair may be named as “The Infosys Foundation Chair for Young Faculty In Computer Science And Applications”.

The proposed Chair shall encourage faculty working in the areas (identified jointly by the sponsoring Foundation and by NIT Tiruchirappalli) like “Cloud Analytics, Edge Computing, Data analytics near the Edge (and an application area for a particular industry to take the research to market)”.

The FC while discussing the proposal, opined to explore initiating Institute Chair positions for Senior Faculty members also, with stringent selection criteria, as it is a matter of prestige for Senior Faculty, those who have contributed immensely to the Institute.

<p>RESOLUTION 43/FC/2020/3</p>	<p>RESOLVED THAT the proposal for the establishment of Sponsored Chairs by Alumni/Corporate/Foundations etc., be recommended to the Board of Governors.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the proposal for establishment of Infosys foundation Chair for Young Faculty in CSE and CA, as per the guidelines in Annexure III of the FC agenda be recommended to the Board of Governors.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Chair Position for Senior faculty also be explored by the Institute.</p>
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ITEM NO.4**OPENING AND OPERATION OF FCRA ACCOUNT**

The Government of India vide Gazette notification no S.O.459(E) dated 30 Jan 2020 has modified the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act,2010 and exempt organizations constituted or established under a Central Act or a State Act and required to have their amounts compulsorily audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), from the operation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010. NIT Tiruchirappalli being established under NITSER Act 2007, and the Annual accounts of Institute is being audited by C&AG, the exemption is applicable to NIT Trichy. Considering the modification in policy, Institute may be permitted to open and operate a Foreign Currency account in a Nationalized Bank and Director and Registrar of the Institute may be appointed as authorized signatories. MHRD may be intimated in this regard.

**RESOLUTION
43/FC/2020/4**

RESOLVED THAT the opening of the FCRA ACCOUNT as per the Gazette Notification No S.O.459 (E) dated 30 Jan 2020, with intimation to MHRD, be recommended to the Board of Governors.

ITEM NO.5**SETTING UP OF STUDIOS FOR ONLINE CONTENT DEVELOPMENT FOR MOOCs UNDER APPROVED HEFA FUNDING.**

Ministry of Human Resource Development has appointed NIT, Tiruchirappalli as the National MOOCs Coordinator for offering Engineering Courses at UG and PG level.

The setting up of the studios is inevitable for developing the quality learning content to be uploaded online. In consultation with IIT Madras, it is proposed to set up 4 Nos of studios at the

total budgetary cost of Rs. 3.50 crores.

Further, the Board has already approved Rs. 9.49 Cr for setting up of Smart Classes under total projects worth Rs.51.60 Cr under HEFA funding vide resolution 53 BoG/2019/5 and HEFA Sanction Order No: SAN/NITT/177/2019-20 dated 1.8.2019. It was confirmed by HEFA, that the Sanction accorded is based on the projects and modification in the equipment under a project may be allowed with intimation to HEFA. Hence it is proposed to consider the setting up of the Studios for MOOCs under the approved Rs. 9.49 Cr of Smart Classes under the equipment list item no 11 “Acoustics Treatment in the classroom. False ceiling in the classroom”. The FC deliberated the proposal and recommended to the Board of Governors.

RESOLUTION 43/FC/2020/5	RESOLVED THAT the setting up of four studios for online content development for MOOCs under the sanctioned HEFA funding of Rs.9.49 Cr for setting up Smart classroom, be recommended to the Board of Governors for Approval.
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ITEM NO.6

PROF R JAYASANKAR (RETD) - DOCTORAL PROGRAMME SPONSORED UNDER QIP SCHEME- NON - COMPLIANCE.

Mr. R. Jayasankar, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering had joined in this Institute on 30/12/1983 as Lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering, NIT Tiruchirappalli (formerly Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli) and he superannuated on 31/01/2020 (A.N)

In 1993, he was permitted to do Ph.D., sponsored under Q.I.P Scheme at I.I.T Madras for a period of three years based on the recommendation of the minutes of the Quality Improvement

Programme (QIP) and was relieved from REC, Tiruchirappalli on 16/07/1993, on deputation, as per QIP guidelines. He had rejoined duty on 19/07/1996 F.N at REC, Tiruchirappalli after completing 3 years under QIP at I.I.T Madras without obtaining his Ph.D. degree. As per the bond executed by him, he had to serve the institution for a minimum period of 5 years after the completion of Doctoral Training failing which he should repay a sum of Rs. 7,62,000/-.

As per the service register, Shri.R.Jayasankar was served a notice on 28.1.2020 requesting him to pay the bond amount of Rs.7,62,000/-(Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty two thousand only) together with interest thereon from the date of demand at Government rates for the time being in force on Government loans. Mr.R.Jayasankar in his reply letter dated 11.02.2020 has claimed that he had completed the Doctoral Training Programme successfully and served for five years, and stated that bond status become null and void.

After deliberation, the FC suggested that appropriate action may be taken based on the FRSR and QIP rules prevailing at that time.

RESOLUTION **RESOLVED THAT** appropriate action by
43/FC/2020/6 the Institute as per FRSR and QIP rules
 applicable to the Government employees, at
 that time be considered and recommended to
 the Board of Governors.

**ITEM NO. 7 GROUP MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR THE EMPLOYEES
 OF THE INSTITUTE**

The Ministry of Home Affairs vide the OM No.40-3/3030-DM-I(A) dated 15 Apr 2020, (copy attached as annexure) issued the consolidated guidelines for the containment of COVID-19 pandemic. In the annexure II of the said OM, the MHA was

instructed to mandate the medical insurance for their employees/workers. The NITSER Act 2007, vide Sec 23 provides the provision of insurance scheme for the benefit of its employees.

In the view of the present pandemic situation due to COVID-19, it is felt to have a Group Medical Insurance for the employees and also to mitigate the hardship faced while hospitalization. The Group medical insurance will be extended to all permanent Faculties and Non faculties of the Institute. Accordingly, it is proposed to have a Group medical insurance for 2 lakhs coverage for each staff and their family.

The FC discussed the proposal. Since, GIS for all Autonomous Institutions are under discussion in MHRD, the Institute can wait for the recommendations. However, the Institute may provide a platform for all employees/ pensioners to avail GIS with no financial liability to the Institute.

RESOLUTION **RESOLVED THAT** a platform for all
43/FC/2020/7 employees/ pensioners to avail GIS with no
financial liability to the Institute be
recommended to the Board of Governors.

**ITEM NO.8 RECOMMENDATION OF 24TH BUILDING AND WORKS
COMMITTEE - CONSTRUCTION OF NEW KITCHEN
FOR OPAL MESS**

The existing Mega Messes operated inside the OPAL (ladies hostel) premises only has dining halls in the ground and first floors, Kitchen for the same is located in an adjacent old building. It is proposed to integrate the kitchen with dining halls in the first and second floor by building a New Kitchen facility in ground as well as first floor with a total area of 540 sq.m. The proposed interior works will include all modern amenities in the kitchen like SS kitchen counters, Wash areas, Exhaust hoods etc. The cost estimate of Rs.1.97 Crore for the

proposed construction of new kitchen near Opal dining hall is recommended by the 24th BWC meeting. The FC deliberated the proposal and recommended to the Board of Governors.

<p>RESOLUTION 43/FC/2020/8</p>	<p>RESOLVED THAT the construction of new kitchen for OPAL Mess at a cost of Rs.1.97 Crore from IRG be recommended to the Board of Governors.</p> <p><u>RATIFICATION ITEMS</u></p>
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ITEM NO.9 ARBITRATION CASE BETWEEN CPWD AND URC CONSTRUCTION. (WP No. 4670 of 2019)

The issue of Arbitration was discussed in various meetings of the Board of Governors of the Institute and numerous hearing were held in the High Court of Madras.

As per the directions of the High Court, Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli had appeared in person in the High Court of Madras on 4th February 2020 in the Arbitration case. Mr. P.K Singh, Special Director General, CPWD also appeared in person The Learned ASG Shri G. Rajagopalan appeared for NIT Tiruchirappalli and argued the case. Finally, the Learned Judge pronounced the judgement in the WP 4670 of 2019 as follows:

“After hearing parties at some length, I hold that it would only be prudent to dispose the writ petition on the following terms:

- (i) National Institute of Technology, shall pay / deposit to Central Public Works Department, now represented in this proceedings by the 4th respondent, the Executive Engineer, Central Public Works Department, Tiruchirappalli Central Division, NIT Campus, Thuvakudi, Tiruchirappalli, 75% of the award amount, which amount shall be mutually crystalized by the officials of National Institute of Technology and officials of Central Public Works

Department and this amount shall be paid by National Institute of Technology by depositing the same in the Bank account of Central Public Works Department on or before 06.03.2020. It is specifically represented by the learned Additional Solicitor General, that the deposit of 75% must be without prejudice to the right of the National Institute of Technology, to lay a later claim / claims / further claims as against the Central Public Works Department in appropriate proceedings more particularly either by inviting Central Public Works Department to arbitrate the matter or institute a civil suit or invoke any other alternate dispute resolution method.

(ii) On deposit of such 75%, within a period of 7 working days from the date of such deposit, the Central Public Works Department more particularly, the 4th respondent, the Executive Engineer, Central Public Works Department, Tiruchirappalli shall pay the said amount to the account of the petitioner viz. M/s.URC Construction (P) Ltd.

(iii) The petitioner viz. M/s.URC Construction (P) Ltd, shall receive the amount without prejudice to lay further claims / entire award amount including any interest compound or under any head of claim / head of account either through negotiation or in proceedings under Section 36 of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 or through any other appropriate proceedings.

It is, however, hoped that the Central Government Agencies, particularly, the National Institute of Technology and Central Public Works Department would at the earliest honour the award amount which has already been passed”.

The Learned ASG advised that this is the best possible solution available s and asked the Institute to proceed with the implementation of the judgement and transfer 75% of the Arbitration amount to CPWD before 06.03.2020 without prejudice to NIT Tiruchirappalli.

Hence 75% of the Award amount, which works out to Rs.4,80,19,275/- (Rupees Four Crores eighty lakhs nineteen thousand two hundred and seventy five only) to CPWD, as per the court order (Award Amount of Rs.6,40,25,700/-) was transferred to CPWD on 26/02/2020 with intimation to MHRD (Annexure VIII d of the Agenda notes).

Further, the Institute received a letter dated 16.05.2020 from CPWD asking NIT Tiruchirappalli to pay the rest 25% of the arbitration amount with interest of the full amount from the date of the arbitration award, at the earliest. Another letter dated 22.05.2020, was received from CPWD, that consent may be accorded to them for disbursement of balance award amount with interest from the balance money available with CPWD from the ongoing works in the Institute.

Opinion of ASG was obtained regarding the letters which is as follows: As per the court order dated 4th Feb 2020, and as per ASG advice, after discussion with MHRD, we paid 75% of the Arbitration amount to CPWD. If the Arbitration amount is to be honored in full, CPWD has to pay the rest of the amount as NIT Tiruchirappalli, are not even party to the arbitration.

A suitable reply was sent to CPWD by the Institute and suitable action can be initiated with the consent of the BOG.

The Finance Committee discussed the proposal in detail and said that defying the court order, the CPWD should not write to the Institute requesting for more money as it is already settled by the Court Judgement dated 4.2.2020. Also, CPWD should avoid seeking permission from the Institute to divert the fund meant for other projects towards the rest of the arbitration award, which cannot be entertained. The Finance Committee suggested that the Institute may explore availing the service of other Govt. agencies/PSU for

infrastructure development in the campus.

**RESOLUTION
43/FC/2020/9**

RESOLVED THAT the payment of 75% of the arbitration amount amounting to Rs. 4,80,19,275/- (Rupees Four Crores eighty lakhs nineteen thousand two hundred and seventy five only) paid to CPWD as per the court order of 4.2.2020 for the WP no 4670 of 2019 at the High Court of Madras be recommended to the Board of Governors for ratification.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT CPWD should not seek from the Institute more money than what is already paid by NIT Tiruchirappalli indicated in the court judgement dated 4.2.2020. The Agency should avoid seeking permission from the Institute to divert the fund meant for other projects towards the rest of the arbitration award, which cannot be entertained.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Institute may explore the possibility of availing the service of other Govt. agencies/PSU for infrastructure development in the campus.

ITEM NO.10 RESEARCH GRANT FOR POST DOCTORAL FELLOWS (PDF)

The detailed guidelines for the utilization of grant to the PDFs which was framed based on the CPDA guidelines, was discussed and noted.

**RESOLUTION
43/FC/2020/10**

RESOLVED THAT the detailed guidelines for the utilization of grant to the

PDFs which was framed based on the CPDA guidelines be noted.

ITEM NO.11 ANNUAL BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

The FC noted the annual budget allocation for the financial year 2020-2021. The FC opined that austerity measures should be practiced due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation, especially due to the possibility that the infrastructure grant may be curtailed.

RESOLUTION 43/FC/2020/11 RESOLVED THAT the annual budget allocation for the financial year 2020-2021 be noted, with the suggestion to practice austerity measures by the Institute, due to the COVID situation.

ITEM NO. 12 GRANT – IN - AID RECEIVED FROM MHRD DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021 UNDER RECURRING & NON – RECURRING HEADS (OH-31, 35, 36).

FC noted the Grant-in-aid received from MHRD during the Financial Year 2020-2021.

RESOLUTION 43/FC/2020/12 RESOLVED THAT the grant-in-aid received from MHRD for the financial year 2020-21 be noted.

ITEM NO. 13 ANY OTHER ITEMS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

The FC expressed sincere thanks to the Registrar, Mr. A. Palanivel for his contribution to the development of the

Institute, as he completes his term of duty in NIT,
Tiruchirappalli on 30.06.2020.

The Meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.



Member Secretary



Chairperson In-charge, FC