



தமிழ்நாடு ஆசிரியர் கல்வியியல் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

TAMILNADU TEACHERS EDUCATION UNIVERSITY

(Established under Tamil Nadu Act 33 of 2008)

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Sub: Higher Education Department - MHRD - National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology - AAKASH the world's lowest cost computing - Cum Access Device - Launched by MHRD - Reg.

- Ref:** 1. Govt. Letter No.23476/A1/2011-1, dated 09.12.2011 from Joint Secretary to Government, Higher Education (A1) Department, Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.
2. From the Additional Secretary (TEL) & Mission Director, NME-ICT, Govt. MHRD, Department of Higher Education Lt.No. NME-ICT/AAKASH/2011, dated 23.11.2011.

I am to inform you that the Hon'ble Minister, Human Resource Development has launched 'AAKASH' the world's Lowest Cost Computing-cum-Access Device on October 5, 2011 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

Using 'Aakash' students can access the education e-content that is getting created in a massive program under NME-ICT for UG and PG courses in Humanities, Commerce, Science, Social Science and Engineering etc. E-content that is ready is uploaded in Sakshat portal (<http://www.sakshat.ac.in>) and the content would continue to increase and shall be made available to every Indian learner.

A copy of the above letter from the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi dated 23.11.2011 is now sent to this University by the Higher Education Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu wherein it is requested to send a report to the Government regarding the requirement of 'AAKASH' and certain other inputs.

The above letter of the Government of India MHRD Department is uploaded in the University website and I request you to kindly go through the contents of the letter and offer your remarks on the total requirements of 'AAKASH' Tablets for your college.

An early reply positively on or before 30.12.2011 is requested in this matter.

W. S. S. S. S.
REGISTRAR

To

✓ The Principals of Colleges of Education
Affiliated to Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University.

Corr. 23476 / P1 / 2011



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सूचना का
 अधिकार



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 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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 NEW DELHI-110 110
 23rd November, 2011

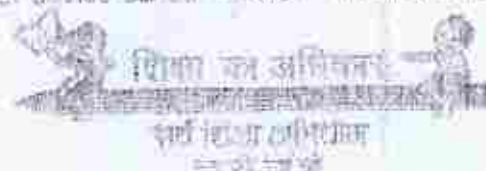
No. NME-ICT/AKASH/2011

Dear Dr. Kannan,

You are aware that the Ministry of HRD, under a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme, namely National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NME-ICT) plans to leverage the potential of ICT to provide high quality, personalized and interactive knowledge modules over the internet/intranet for all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in an any time any where mode. As part of this initiative, a low cost computing cum access device called 'Aakash' was developed. You must be aware that our Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development launched 'AAKASH' the world's Lowest Cost Computing-cum Access Device on October 5, 2011 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. (Using 'Aakash', students can access the educational e-content that is getting created in a massive program under NME-ICT for UG and PG courses in Humanities, Commerce, Science, Social Science and Engineering etc. E-content) that is ready to be uploaded on our Sakshat portal (<http://www.sakshat.ac.in>) and the content would continue to increase and shall be made available to every Indian learner. The NME-ICT is further committed to provide broadband connectivity to all higher educational institutions in the country. Nearly 419 universities have as on date been provided 1Gbps connectivity on optical fibre and are getting migrated to the National Knowledge Network. It is quite likely that your university / institution would already have received this connectivity. Installation of a Local Area Network (LAN) within the Universities / Institutions connected under NME-ICT is already underway. I would like to bring to your notice that 75% of the cost of providing this connectivity for a 10 year period has been provided by the Govt. of India under NME-ICT. Similarly, 75% of the cost of establishing a LAN at each University is being met by the Govt. of India under NME-ICT. Apart from this, Departments of the University and Colleges shall be provided Local Area Network connectivity. I am sure your University / Institution / College shall derive full benefit of NME-ICT to enhance access, equity and quality in our education system.

3. To enable our students and teachers to access the e-content, computers or laptops or tablet PCs would be needed. Very few universities or institutions can boast of a ratio of 1:1 between the number of students and number of access devices like PCs / laptops / tablet devices. We also have a yawning digital divide between the haves and the have-nots and most student homes do not have broadband connectivity. Therefore, in order to create an environment of learning, in any time anywhere mode, highly inexpensive tablet device called 'Aakash' has been developed under NME-ICT.



The field trials of these devices are ongoing and perhaps your institution is already participating in these trials. Based on the feedback that we receive, improved versions of 'Aakash' tablet with higher capabilities and specifications at the same or lower cost would keep getting developed and produced on a mass scale to meet the specific requirements of our student population. Content specifications and more information as well as answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) are available on the Sakshat portal (www.sakshat.ac.in)

4. Under the NME-ICT during the 11th Plan period, funding of Rs. 700 crores is available for providing 50% subsidy to every University / Institution / College for procurement of computing devices. The vision is that the effective use of technology in imparting education should enable each student of an institution in India to enhance his/her capability. The present delivered cost of 'Aakash' is Rs. 2276 per device. Institutions of higher education can procure 'Aakash' by contributing 50% of this cost as the balance 50% would be borne by the Govt. of India under NME-ICT. Thus, for a University, College or Institution the 'Aakash' tablet would be available at around Rs. 1138 per device. This would enable them even to issue 'Aakash' tablets to their students on a pattern similar to the book bank scheme. Naturally, the demand is expected to be very high and we would like to get a clear picture of the total requirement.

5. It is with the purpose of planning and fine-tuning the policies that we need to know the requirements of these devices in your university/ institute/ college in the current financial year. It would also help the procuring organization to prioritize the delivery schedule and identify the suppliers. We now seek your support and would like you to send us a note giving your inputs on the following:

1. Your total requirement of the 'Aakash' tablets for your institution
2. Your thoughts on how the devices should be distributed across the country
3. Your thoughts on how to best handle the issue of subsidy
4. How you plan to handle the distribution within your institution

6. I shall be grateful if you could kindly respond at the earliest

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

 (N.K. Ghose)

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