प्रधान महालेखाकार (लेखापरीक्षा I) का कार्यालय, केरल, तिरुवनंतपुरम
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT GENERAL (AUDIT I) KERALA,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 001

सत्यमेव जयते

SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTION OF INDIA
लोकहितार्थ सत्यनिष्ठा
Dedicated to Truth in Public Interest

No. Au-I/AMG II (HQ) I/I/TE/17-3/2025-26/ 07
Dated: 15 May 2025

21/05

Fin B

To

The Director,
Directorate of Technical Education,
Padmavilasom Road,
Fort P.O.
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 023

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
21 MAY 2025
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-23.

Sir,

Sub: The Inspection Report on the Audit of accounts and registers of the Office of the Director of Technical Education, Thiruvananthapuram for the period 2023-24.

The Inspection Report on the audit of the accounts and registers of the Directorate of Technical Education, Thiruvananthapuram for the period 2023-24 conducted under Section 13 of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (DPC) Act, 1971 is forwarded herewith. The replies/remarks to the points raised in the report may please be arranged to be furnished through the Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram within four weeks from the date of receipt.

The report has been prepared on the basis of information furnished and made available by the Auditee Institution. The Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit I), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram disclaims any responsibility for any misinformation and/or non information on the part of Auditee.

In this connection, reference is invited to Article 63(c) of Kerala Financial Code Vol.I impressing upon the essential need for furnishing complete replies to all the paras of the Inspection Report.

Receipt of documents may please be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

Sr. Audit Officer

Copy to:

The Secretary to Government,
Higher Education Department,
Government of Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram- 695001

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Sr. Audit Officer

INSPECTION REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS AND REGISTERS OF THE DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM AND TEN SELECTED INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE DIRECTORATE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01/04/2023 TO 31/03/2024

PART-I

A. Introduction

The Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) is functioning under the administrative control of the Higher Education Department of the Government of Kerala. It was formed in 1957 with the objective of streamlining the administration of various technical institutions in the state like Engineering Colleges, Polytechnic Colleges, Technical High Schools, College of Fine Arts, Government commercial Institute etc. There are 12 Engineering Colleges (nine Government Colleges and three Aided Colleges), 51 Polytechnic Colleges (45 Government Polytechnics and six Aided Polytechnics), three Fine Arts Colleges, 39 Technical High Schools, 17 Commercial Institutes and 42 Tailoring and Garment Making Centres functioning all over the State, under the control of the Directorate.

Apart from the above, there are two Regional Directorates (Kozhikode and Kothamangalam) and State Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (SITTR) (formerly Curriculum Development Centre), Supervisory Development Centre (SDC) and an Industry Institute Interaction Cell are also functioning under DTE. There is an Examination Wing i.e. Office of the Joint Controller of Technical Examination (JCTE) working under the department for conducting all the Technical Examinations for the State and to award certificates to the successful candidates.

Over and above, the Government of India, with the assistance of World Bank has launched 'Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme' (TEQIP) aiming at a systematic transformation of technical education system in the country. The project is a joint venture between MHRD, Government of India and the State Government. A State Project Facilitation Unit (SPFU) was established and functions under the DTE for facilitating the implementation of TEQIP project in the State.

DTE is responsible for coordinating various activities of Technical Institutions including maintaining the standard of curricular and co-curricular activities. The teaching and non-teaching staff of the institutions are given opportunities to develop their quality through various career development schemes implemented from time to time.

The Audit of the Directorate of Technical Education was conducted under Sections 13 and 14 of the CAG's (DPC) Act 1971 from 27/01/2025 to 28/03/2025 for the period 2023-24. The following ten institutions coming under the jurisdiction of DTE were also selected for audit.

1. College of Engineering, Trivandrum
2. College of Fine Arts, Trivandrum
3. Central Polytechnic College, Vattiyoorkavu
4. Technical High School, Nedumangad
5. Govt Commercial Institute, Alappuzha
6. Tyagaraja Polytechnic College, Amballur, Thrisur
7. Government College of Engineering, Wayanad
8. NSS College of Engineering, Palakkad
9. Mar Athanesius College of Engineering, Kothamangalam
10. TKM College of Engineering, Kollam

B. Officers in Charge

Name of the Director (Shri/Smt)	Period
Dr. Rajasree MS	01/06/2023 to 31/03/2024

C. Financial Position

Details of budget allotment and expenditure of plan fund and non-plan fund for the last three years are shown below:

(₹ *in lakh*)

Year	State Grant				Central Grant	
	Receipt		Utilisation			
	Plan	NP	Plan	NP	Receipt	Utilisation
2021-22	7571.64	92212.49	4951.44	87266.71	162.00	161.99
2022-23	6009.92	84203.00	5292.11	83042.00	130.00	100.00
2023-24	10319.78	87042.71	7431.21	82934.74	140.00	19.56

D. Internal Audit

Internal audit of the DTE, Thiruvananthapuram has been conducted upto 31/03/2020 from 05/08/2024 to 09/08/2024.

PART-II

Audit Findings

PART-II-(A)

Significant Audit Findings

I. Loss of revenue to the tune of ₹ 306.21 lakh as central assistance to the government, due to delay in disbursement of 7th CPC arrears (OBS-1870998)

The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India decided (09 November 2017) to consider the recommendations made by the Pay Review Committee (PRC), constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC), to revise the pay scales of teachers and other equivalent academic staff in Higher Educational Institutions under the purview of UGC. The revised pay and revised rates of the Dearness Allowance was effective from 1st January 2016. It was also decided (26 July 2018) to provide financial assistance from the Central Government to State Governments opting to revise pay scales of teachers and other equivalent cadre covered under the scheme, by way of reimbursement to the extent of 50 *per cent* of the additional expenditure involved in the implementation of the pay revision for the universities, colleges and other higher educational institutions funded by the State Government. Financial assistance for the scheme was to be provided for the period from 1st January 2016 to 31st March 2019. There would be no central assistance thereafter.

Payment of central assistance for implementing this scheme is also subject to the condition that the entire scheme of revision of pay scales, together with all the conditions laid down by the way of Regulations 2018 and other guidelines, shall be implemented by State Government and Universities and Colleges coming under their jurisdiction as a composite scheme without any modification except with regard to the date of implementation and pay scales mentioned therein above.

The Government of Kerala (GOK) decided (29/6/2019) to adopt and implement the revised UGC Scheme for the revision of pay scales of College/University teachers and other equivalent cadre with effect from 1st January 2016. The arrears for the period from 1st January 2016 to 31st March 2019 shall be taken later, subject to the release of central assistance in this regard and the fiscal position of the state.

The Government also approved implementing the UGC Regulations, 2018 on minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers and other academic staff in Universities and Colleges and other measures for the maintenance of standards in Higher Education (UGC Regulations 2018).

The Government of Kerala (GoK), through order GO(P) No.18/2020/HEDN dated 28/05/2020, sanctioned the release of arrears under the 7th UGC pay revision for the period from 01/01/2016 to 31/03/2019. The sanctioned amount was to be credited to the individual GPF accounts of the eligible teachers by the respective institutions/organizations. The total financial commitment for implementing the 7th UGC pay revision in the state for this period was estimated at ₹2,12,304 lakh and the Central Government would reimburse ₹1,06,152 lakh being 50 *per cent* of the amount.

The Higher Education Department, via letter No. HEDN-C3/272/2019-HEDN dated 15/06/2020, directed the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) to furnish a detailed report on the implementation of the 7th UGC pay revision. In response, DTE sent emails to three aided engineering colleges requesting the necessary details. However, no reply was submitted to the Higher Education Department.

Subsequently, on 28/02/2022, the Higher Education Department issued an email directing DTE to submit a comprehensive proposal for the arrears due under the 7th UGC pay revision scheme. This was followed by a DO letter from the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government on 03/03/2022, reiterating the need for a proposal to secure the reimbursement of 50 *per cent* of the arrear amount.

In compliance, DTE submitted arrear details for the three aided engineering colleges through letter DO.No.DP4/6684/20/DTE dated 10/03/2022, estimating a requirement of ₹612.42 lakh for the payment of UGC arrears for the period from 01/01/2016 to 31/03/2019. However, the disbursement of these arrears remains pending due to delays in receiving funds from the State Government.

The Central Government's financial assistance was structured as a reimbursement scheme, with no provision for advance payments. Consequently, the delay in timely disbursement of pay revision arrears by the department/government resulted in a loss of ₹306.21 lakh being 50 *per cent* of the total arrears as central assistance to the state.

The facts and figures may be confirmed.

PART-II-B

Other incidental Audit Findings

I. Undue delay in project execution leading to financial loss and work stagnation of NABARD project - construction of Government Polytechnic, Kothamangalam (OBS-1828496)

Administrative sanction (AS) was accorded for the construction of the Government Polytechnic College, Kothamangalam, under NABARD – RIDF Tranche XXIV 2018-19, vide GO(Rt) No. 185/2019/HEdn dated 04/02/2019, with a total financial outlay of ₹601.07 lakh. Subsequently, a revised AS was accorded vide GO(Rt) No. 609/2020/HEdn dated 15/05/2020, increasing the total outlay to ₹799.98 lakh, with NABARD's share being ₹510.91 lakh.

The work comprises the construction of:

(i) A canteen cum fitness centre

(ii) A library block

(iii) A front gate and compound wall

(iv) A language lab

The Government appointed M/s KITCO as the implementing agency for the project and directed the Director of Technical Education (DTE) to execute an agreement with M/s KITCO. Accordingly, an agreement was executed between M/s KITCO and the Director of Technical Education on 28/05/2020. Technical sanction (TS) was accorded for ₹6,65,13,381/-.

The contract was awarded to M/s Lee Builders at a negotiated amount of ₹6,88,81,530. An agreement was executed between KITCO and the contractor on 06/02/2021, with a stipulated completion period of 12 months, i.e., by 15/02/2022. The contractor remitted three *per cent* of the contract value as a performance guarantee, amounting to ₹20,64,446. The site was handed over on 16/02/2021.

As per the agreement executed between KITCO and DTE, and as per GO(P) No. 311/14/Fin dated 30/07/2014, KITCO was eligible for a centage charge of five *per cent*. The payment structure was as follows: 50 *per cent* of the fee was to be released upon obtaining the TS amount, 25 *per cent* upon completion of 50 *per cent* of the physical work, and the remaining 25 *per cent* upon completion of 100 *per cent* of the physical work.

Accordingly, ₹22,47,557, including 18 *per cent* GST (50 *per cent* of the total cost), was released to KITCO on obtaining technical sanction vide GO(Rt) No. 1286/2020/HEDN dated 15/10/2020 and Proceeding No. D4/25628/19/DTE dated 12/12/2020 of DTE.

As per HEDN-L1/264/2024-HEDN dated 23/09/2024, it was informed that RIDF Tranche XXIV would be closed on 30/06/2024. Expenditures incurred up to 30/06/2024 for projects sanctioned under this tranche would be considered for reimbursement until 30/09/2024. Therefore, no further extension for project implementation or additional fund withdrawals would be permitted beyond these cut-off dates.

However, the audit observed that only 60 *per cent* of the work has been completed, and the project is currently at a standstill, as detailed below:

- **Canteen cum fitness centre**: 80 *per cent* completed; flooring work pending.
- **Library block**: 50 *per cent* completed.
- **Front gate**: Concrete work completed, but the watchman's cabin and gate installation remain unfinished.
- **Compound wall**: 60 *per cent* completed.
- **Language lab**: Construction not started.

An expenditure of ₹ 2,90,63,072 was released to the contractor as of January 2025.

In this connection, audit observed the following.

1. Negligence by KITCO and DTE resulted in cancellation of Language Lab construction, denying benefits to students. The construction of the language lab could not commence as KITCO did not provide the necessary drawings. Meeting held on 25-09-2024 in the chamber of the Joint Secretary, Higher Education, decided to drop the proposal for the construction of the language lab, due to time constraints.

Audit observed laxity on the part of both KITCO and DTE in obtaining the necessary fitness certificate from PWD, led to the cancellation of the language lab project, thereby denying the intended benefits to students.

2. Obstruction to the Completion of the Compound Wall

Although 60 *per cent* of the compound wall was completed, further progress was halted due to objections raised by a former minister regarding the absence of boundary demarcation by the Tahsildar. The DTE didn't take any action to get the boundary demarcated by the revenue authorities. Urgent action may be taken to complete the construction of compound wall to reduce the security threats in GPTC, Kothamangalam.

3. Non-Resumption of Work

A decision was made in the meeting held on 25/09/2024 to complete the remaining work within five months. However, as of April 2025, the work has not resumed as the contractor could not proceed due to paucity of fund.

DTE received only ₹ 2.91 crore from NABARD against the sanctioned amount of ₹ 5.11 crore. No action was taken against KITCO for the delay in completion of work, which ultimately led to a loss of ₹2.20 crore from NABARD and thereby stagnation of the work. Action may be taken to fix responsibility against the defaulter under intimation to audit.

When this was pointed out in audit, no reply was furnished by the DTE.

Further progress awaited

II. Financial mismanagement of government revenue in admission process of BFA, MFA, CSAB, MCA, B Tech evening course, etc. (OBS-1897736)

The Higher Education Department, Government of Kerala, issues annual directives inviting applications for allotment of seats for in BFA, MFA, Central Seat Allotment Board (CSAB) courses, MCA, B Tech evening course, etc. in Kerala. Applicants are required to submit their applications online and remit the application fee to the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Thiruvananthapuram, through the designated Current Account (No. 39629063753). The funds collected in this account are subsequently transferred by the DTE to the Savings Account (No. 67319064365), which is maintained as the Lateral Entry Fund (LEF). This fund is operated by the Senior Joint Director (ECS).

In this connection, the following observations are made.

i. As per Chapter II Article 4 of Kerala Financial Code, fees for services rendered is to be treated as Government revenue. Further, as per Rule 6(2) of Kerala Treasury Code Part I, 'Moneys defined in Articles 266, 267 and 284 of the Constitution shall not be appropriated to meet Departmental expenditure, nor otherwise kept apart from Government Account. No

Department of Government may require that any moneys received by it on Government Account be kept out of that account.'.

As per the above provisions, the money collected as application fee from the candidate's seeking admission for various courses is to be treated as Government revenue and hence the fees collection should be remitted into treasury without delay as required under Article 7 of the Kerala Financial Code, Volume I. Instead, audit observed that funds from this account were diverted for disbursement of remuneration to staffs and other expenditure such as hiring of vehicles, etc. These are not in compliance with the regulatory provisions stipulated above and hence the total collection of application fees need to be credited into Government account. Urgent action may be taken to get budget provision for meeting the expenditures in connection with admission processes.

ii. In the absence of guidelines, amount already expended (remuneration to staff, procurement of refreshment, stationery, etc.) in this connection ratification from government needed. Urgent action may be taken to comply the same. Further, guidelines may be formulated and approval from Finance department may be obtained.

iii. Despite the presence of an IT Cell in the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), comprising a Deputy Manager (IT), a System Analyst, two Computer Programmers, two Trade Instructors, and one temporary apprentice staff, no initiative has been taken to develop an in-house admission management system. The admission process could be fully digital and primarily software-driven, requiring only periodic updates rather than repeated procurement. Developing an in-house system would ensure long-term cost savings and operational efficiency, while the current recurring expenditure highlights inefficiencies and redundant procurement practices, making it highly irregular.

iv. Further, audit observed that DTE is having no proper records in this connection. Registers were not maintained for recording the collection, expenditure details and balance details along with total applications received, total allotment made, fees per candidate, college to which the candidate was allotted, number of sanctioned seats per course, per institution and any other related details for each course.

When this was pointed out in audit, no reply was furnished.

Compliance report awaited.

III. Non-realization of hostel fee from students- ₹15.63 lakh (OBS-1837392)

Hostel fees in government colleges are used to cover the costs of providing and maintaining residential facilities for students, including accommodation, meals, electricity and other essential services and utilities. The test check showed that considerable amount is pending realization from the students who occupied the hostel. The status of pending realization of hostel fees was as in the table.

Institution	Year	Amount pending ₹
CET, Trivandrum	2019-23	1273500
CFA, Trivandrum	2021-25	289280

In this context, Audit observed the following

1. Dues were not adjusted against the Caution Money Deposit before clearing the liability of students after the completion of the courses as lack of co-ordination existed between Academic Departments and Hostel/Administration.

2. The college was not able to track the records of hostel fee collection on a real time basis as records were not fully computerized using advanced Hostel Management Software.

In this regard the reason for non-realization of hostel fee ₹15,62,780/- and action taken to collect the fees may be stated.

In reply it was stated that non realization pertains to the students who passed out during COVID. Though the students were informed to remit fees, no one turned up. As the hostel fee includes Government revenue and intended for maintenance and upkeep of the infrastructure, the recovery is necessary. Also replied that steps would be initiated to include, dues module in Hostel Management Software.

Further progress awaited.

IV. Encroachment of land belonging to College of Engineering (CET), Thiruvananthapuram by private parties (OBS-1839704)

The College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET), established in 1939, is the largest engineering institution in the state, with a sprawling 82-acre campus. Despite being the oldest engineering institute in Kerala with a rich academic heritage, CET lacks a proper boundary wall, leaving its property vulnerable to encroachment and unauthorized occupation. This issue has led to the loss of land over the years, with several litigations currently pending in courts. The matter was previously highlighted in the Inspection Report for the period from 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2015.

As per Kerala Gazette Notification No. 70363/G4/58 dated 04.09.1958, a total of 81.25 acres of land was acquired for the construction of CET under Survey Numbers: 2315, 2314, 2313, 2306, 2305, 1588, and 1582. However, discrepancies exist regarding land acquisition documentation for Attipra village, where no supporting Gazette Notification or records were found.

According to the Survey Report dated 12.02.2012, prepared by the Taluk Surveyor, Thiruvananthapuram, CET currently holds 82 acres and 33 cents of land, including 3 acres 33 cents in Attipra Village. However, 75.673 cents (30.64 ares) have been encroached upon across 15 cases, posing a serious threat to institutional property. The land details, as per the certification from village officers, are as follows:

District & Taluk	Village	Block No.	Survey No.	Area (Hectares)	Area (Acres & Cents)
Thiruvananthapuram	Cheruvackal	20	73/1,2315,2306,1582,2314,2305,1588	31.9850 H	79 Acres
	Attipra	18	350/2,4	01.3480 H	3 Acres 33 Cents
Total				33.3330 H	82 Acres 33 Cents

A review of available records reveals discrepancies in the recorded land area of the College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET), located within the Cheruvackal and Attipra Village Office limits in Thiruvananthapuram Taluk.

As per certification from the respective Village Officers, CET holds 79 acres in Cheruvackal and 2.89 acres in Attipra (Survey No. 350/2 – 67.40 Are and Survey No. 350/4 – 49.60 Are). However, the Survey Report records 3 acres 33 cents for Attipra, while the Central Survey Office (No. B7-dt/7151/16 Tr. No. 9970/996906) states that CET holds 4.06 acres (1.6460 Hectares) in Attipra. These inconsistencies in land records are summarized as follows:

- **2.89 acres** (as per Village Officers' certification)
- **3.33 acres** (as per the Survey Report)
- **4.06 acres** (as per the Central Survey Office)

Given these inconsistencies and the ongoing encroachment issues, immediate action is required to reconcile land records, secure the campus by constructing a proper boundary wall, and initiate legal measures to reclaim encroached land. Ensuring accurate land documentation is crucial to preventing further disputes and unauthorized occupation.

The following remarks are offered in this regard:

1. A review of records reveals that 75.673 cents (30.64 ares) of land have been encroached upon in 15 cases, highlighting a serious lapse by the college authorities. As custodians of the property, they failed to report the issue to the government in a timely manner or implement preventive measures at an early stage. Notably, no initiative has been taken by the college for a resurvey of the land or proper boundary demarcation to date. Further scrutiny of files indicates that no effective action was taken to evict the encroachers, with the last recorded correspondence on the matter dating back to 2018. Since then, no further communication or remedial measures have been undertaken, allowing the issue to persist and potentially escalate. This reflects serious negligence in handling the matter by the college authorities. Immediate intervention is necessary to reclaim the encroached land and prevent further unauthorized occupation.

2. According to the Survey Report dated 12.02.2012, prepared by the Taluk Surveyor, Thiruvananthapuram, the College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET) holds 82 acres and 33 cents of land, including 3 acres 33 cents in Attipra. However, certification by the respective Village Officers records only 2.89 acres in Attipra, creating a discrepancy. Additionally, records from the Central Survey Office (No. B7-dt/7151/16 Tr. No. 9970/996906) state that CET holds 4.06 acres in Attipra. These inconsistencies across official records indicate varying extents of land for CET in Attipra:

- **2.89 acres** (as per Village Officers' certification)
- **3.83 acres** (as per the Survey Report)
- **4.06 acres** (as per the Central Survey Office)

To resolve this issue, necessary action has to be initiated to obtain certified copies of all relevant records, request a joint verification by the Revenue Department, Survey Office, and CET representatives, review past land acquisition records, revenue registers, and government orders, and seek an official statement from the Thiruvananthapuram District Collector or the Land Records Department.

3. The Government of Kerala, via G.O. No. 2657/2012/H-Edn dated 12.12.2012, granted administrative sanction for the construction of a compound wall at an estimated cost of ₹193 lakh, with ₹50 lakh contributed by the College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET) from its Centre for Continuing Education Fund and ₹143 lakh allocated to the Public Works Department (PWD) for execution. Despite PWD expending the full allocated amount and CET spending ₹47.65 lakh from its own funds, the project remains incomplete due to boundary disputes and encroachments. Furthermore, the constructed portions of the boundary wall are inadequate in height and have sustained severe damage in multiple locations, making them ineffective in preventing trespassing by criminals and anti-social elements, including drug mafias. This situation poses a serious security threat to students and faculty, disrupting the academic environment and compromising campus safety. As a result, the intended objective of the project remains unachieved, rendering the expenditure unfruitful and leading to a significant financial loss.

4. Additionally, records confirm that the Basic Tax Register (BTR) lists the land as "Sarkar Purambokku." However, no steps have been taken to rectify this entry and accurately reflect the land's ownership under the Higher Education Department, with the Principal of CET as its legal custodian. It is imperative to take immediate action to update the records and establish clear ownership to prevent potential disputes or unauthorized claims in the future.

5. The Higher Education (G) Department, via Order No. 1836/2023/HEDN dated 13.12.2023, has granted administrative approval for ₹17.24 crore proposal to construct a complete perimeter wall at the Thiruvananthapuram College of Engineering campus. In the first phase, ₹85,70,587 has been allocated under Head 4202-02-105-81 (Plan) under the Capital Head. However, without resolving existing land encroachment issues and conducting proper boundary demarcation, the project may face public resistance in disputed areas, leading to potential delays and disruptions. Therefore, it is crucial to finalize the boundary demarcation before commencing construction.

6. Furthermore, as per G.O. (MS) No. 618/88/RD dated 27.07.1988, 20 cents of land in Survey Number 197 was allotted to the Postmaster General, Kerala Circle, Thiruvananthapuram (Patta No. B4.16448/88) for the construction of a Post Office building. However, even after 37 years, no action has been taken to commence construction. Given this prolonged inaction, necessary steps should be initiated to recover the land as per

prescribed protocols and regulations to ensure its proper utilization and prevent further neglect.

Further progress on this matter may be reported to the Audit for necessary follow-up and appropriate action.

No reply was furnished.

V. Financial Mismanagement Leading to Duplicate Payment and Fund Blocking in the Construction of Toilets at the College of Fine Arts, Trivandrum (OBS-1842083)

The DTE vide order No. D4/32902/20/DTE dated 18/09/2021 accorded administrative sanction as per the detailed estimation and specifications prepared by the Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD for the construction of toilets in the principal's room and office room of the College of Fine Arts, Thiruvananthapuram for ₹5,84,000 as deposit work. The expenditure was met from the Head of Account "2205-00-101-94-17-MW Plan" and the amount (₹5,84,000) was deposited under the Head of Account 8443-00-108-PW Deposit on 20/10/2021.

Due to the revision of the GST rate from 12% to 18%, a revised estimate amounting to ₹6,59,000 was submitted by PWD. Accordingly, a revised administrative sanction was accorded by the DTE vide Order No. D7/32902/20/DTE dated 27/01/2023. The principal transferred the amount to the deposit head of PWD on 21/02/2023. The work was undertaken by PWD and the completion certificate of the work was submitted by PWD on 19/06/2024.

As per the utilization certificate submitted by PWD on 31/12/2024, it was stated that out of the deposited amount of ₹6,59,000, an expenditure of ₹4,79,370 was incurred, leaving an unspent balance of ₹1,79,630.

Audit observed that ₹5,84,000 deposited under Head of Account 8443-00-108-PW Deposit on 20/10/2021 was not considered, while transferring the revised administrative sanction of ₹6,59,000 to the Public Works Department (PWD). Further, fund Utilisation Certificate furnished by PWD was also silent on the initial payment of ₹5,84,000. Lack of financial management, resulted in a duplicate payment of ₹5,84,000 to PWD.

The failure to verify the previously deposited amount and the lack of due diligence in financial management resulted in an excess payment of ₹5,84,000/-.

Urgent action may be taken to recover the excess payment of ₹5,84,000 along with the unutilized balance of ₹1,79,630 from PWD.

This matter was brought to the attention of the competent authority for necessary action and remedial measures.

It was replied that action has been taken to recover the excess payment of ₹5,84,000 along with the unutilised balance of ₹1,79,630 from PWD.

VI. TDS- pending clearance (OBS-1842810)

While scrutinizing the TAN account as deductor pertains to Government Institutions on TRACES (a web-based application of the Income Tax Department that provides an interface to all those associated with TDS administration) audit observed that ₹27,55,720 is outstanding as detailed below. The pendency was due to negligence in timely filing of returns by the deductor who makes payments towards salary as well as non-salary. The deductor needs to ascertain the source of outstanding demand and regularize.

Institution	TAN	FYs involved	Amount (in ₹)
CET	TVDP00284E	18	1317480
CET Hostel	TVDE00351B	05	48700
CET ITC&SR	TVDC02057G	06	3000
CET Part time Office	TVDO00999F	03	44550
College of Fine Arts, Trivandrum	TVDC01236E	06	831410
GCI, Alappuzha	TVDG00820B	01	10400
MACE, Kothamangalam	CHNP00251G	11	299440
DTE, Trivandrum	TVDD00271F	03	200740
			2755720

Inordinate delay in clearing the demand becomes a liability to the institution in a later period. In this regard, reason for outstanding demand and action taken for clearing was enquired.

It was replied that the verification of TDS has been done and the filed statement were scrutinized. It was observed that the error in TDS filing has been led to the difference and the filing agency is asked to clear the lapse.

Further progress awaited.

VII. Failure to procure essential Printing Machine severely affects student Training (OBS-1847766)

Based on the proposal submitted by the Principal, Central Polytechnic, Vattiyoorkavu, on 23-06-2022, administrative sanction was accorded by the DTE (Order No. D2/29589/22/DTE dated 19-09-2022) for the procurement of a Single Colour Demy Sheetfed Offset Printing Machine at a cost of ₹32 lakh. The expenditure was to be met from the head of account "2203-00-105-79-19 M&E PLAN."

Subsequently, e-tenders were invited on 16-11-2022 and re-e-tender on 10-1-2023, and five firms participated in the bidding process. A Technical Expert Committee, comprising three members (one official each from the Government Central Press, Trivandrum; C-apt, Trivandrum; and GPTC & IPT, Shornur), was formed on 29-3-2023 to scrutinize the tenders and prepare a report. The committee recommended L2 (HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Kalamassery), which quoted ₹28,79,695 (including tax) on the basis of factors such as feedback from institutions who have already purchased the machine, service, design, metallurgy, etc.

The Principal, CPCT, Vattiyoorkavu had requested the DTE on 14-6-2023 and 23-10-2023 for according purchase order. However, despite these approvals, no further action was taken for the procurement of the printing machine.

It was observed in audit that the institution lacks the necessary lab facilities for practical training in the Pre-Press Operation and Press Work courses. Instead of the prescribed 720 hours of practical training, students received only 100 hours of training through C-apt. This severe deficiency adversely impacts the proficiency and skill development of students completing the course.

Considering the critical importance of hands-on training in these courses, immediate action need to be taken to procure the approved printing machine without any further delay.

In reply, it was stated that the delay had happened due to the complaint raised by L1 during the procedure and purchase procedure is in progress.

Further progress awaited.

VIII. Failure to install and maintain CCTV puts campus security at risk (OBS-1847767)

The Government accorded administrative sanction for the procurement and installation of 15 CCTV cameras across various locations within the Central Polytechnic College campus, Vattiyoorkkavu along with the maintenance of existing CCTV systems in the main building, at a total cost of ₹ 9,38,471 (GO(Rt) No.741/2023/H. Edn dated 27/05/2023).

Following this, the principal floated an e-tender, and five bids were received. The lowest bidder, M/s Brainnet Solutions, Kozhikode, which quoted ₹7,92,260 was selected. A purchase order was issued by the DTE on 15/02/2024, followed by a supply order on 29/02/2024. However, the firm later informed the institution of its inability to undertake the work, citing that the rate for maintenance was lower than feasible.

Subsequently, the institution proposed the DTE for awarding the contract to L2 (M/s Infoniks System Pvt. Ltd, Kochi), which quoted ₹ 8,68,256. However, no further action has been taken.

It was found that out of 62 installed CCTV cameras, only three are in working condition. The inaction in procurement and maintenance has left the college highly vulnerable to security threats. Immediate action must be taken to finalize the contract with the next eligible bidder (L2) and ensure the timely installation and maintenance of CCTV cameras.

The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) submitted by L1 (M/s Brainnet Solutions, Kozhikode was forfeited or not was not furnished.

In reply it was stated that purchase procedure is in progress.

Further progress awaited.

IX. Delay and inadequacy in procurement of books for the CPC, Vattiyoorkkavu (OBS-1852683)

The Directorate of Technical Education, Thiruvananthapuram through proceedings No. D2/49636/22/DTE dated 12/01/2023, accorded AS for the purchase of library books amounting to ₹ 3,97,733. Consequently, quotations were invited for the supply of books and as per the tabulation statement, M/s Moon Light Pvt. Ltd offered the highest discount on all 351 books. The Institution- Level Purchase Committee, in its meeting held on 31/03/2023, reviewed the quotations along with the tabulation statement and endorsed the procurement proposal. The proposal for the purchase of 351 books at a total cost of ₹3,21,011 was submitted to DTE for approval on 04/04/2023. Later, on 16/01/2024 DTE granted permission to issue the purchase order as per the given requirement.

Supply order of 351 books amounting to ₹ 3,21,011 was given to the selected firm on 25/01/2024 according to the price quoted by the firm in quotation, but the firm supplied only 105 books amounting to ₹ 1,35,541 on 09/02/2024.

Audit observed that though the purchase order was for 351 books, the firm supplied only 105 books. No action has been taken by the college for procuring the remaining books till date. As per Store Purchase Manuel provision, tenders should be invited, if the estimated value of the stores to be purchased is above ₹ 1,00,000/-. However, instead of tender, quotations were invited for purchasing above rupees one lakh. Reasons for the same may be furnished.

It was replied that steps have been taken to purchase the remaining books by inviting a fresh quotation. Further progress in the procurement may be reported.

X. Irregularities in disbursement of 7th AICTE Pay Revision arrears (OBS-1873310)

Government as per GO(MS)No.547/2023/HEDN dated 3/10/2023, fixed 01/03/2021 as the date of disbursement of revised salary in cash making the 7th AICTE pay revision benefits upto 28/02/2021 as arrears which has to be credited to the individual GPF account on receipt of central share of arrears upto 31/03/2019, in order to maintain uniformity on the date of disbursement of revised salary in cash among faculties of Engineering Colleges in the State.

However, it was observed that the 7th AICTE pay revision arrears from 01/04/2019 to 28/02/2021 were disbursed in cash to 283 regular staff members and 42 retired staff members of six Government Engineering Colleges, in violation of the Government Order dated 03/10/2023 as detailed below.

Sl.No.	Name of college	No. of regular faculty members to whom arrears given from 1/4/2019 onwards	No. of retired faculty members to whom arrears given from 1/4/2019 onwards
1.	Govt. Engineering College, Thrissur	94	16

2.	Govt. Engineering College, Kozhikode	61	02
3.	Govt. Engineering College, Idukki	42	0
4.	Govt. Engineering College, Kannur	73	4
5.	RTI, Kottayam	13	15
6.	Govt. Engineering College, Barton hill	0	7
		283	44

The Higher Education Department directed the DTE on 04/10/2024 to take urgent action to recover the 7th Pay Revision benefits disbursed up to 28/02/2021, along with penal interest from faculty members under the AICTE scheme working in various Engineering Colleges in accordance with the orders dated 03/10/2023. However, no action has been taken by the DTE to recover the amount, resulting in the partial payment of 7th Pay Revision benefits to some faculty members from 01/04/2019, while others received the revised salary from 01/03/2021.

The irregularities in the disbursement of pay revision arrears among faculty members may be regularised.

No reply was furnished.

XI. Misutilization of asset installed under State plan scheme (OBS-1889348)

1. Misutilization of Grid connected solar power plant installed in CET

A solar power plant with 135 KW was installed in CET with an expenditure of ₹ 99.9 lakh. The AS was accorded by the Government vide GO(Rt)No.35/2014/PD dated 01/02/2014 and fund sanctioned vide GO (Rt) 92/2014/PD dated 20/03/2014 and transferred the fund to KSEBL on 31/03/2014. Total estimate was for ₹143.9 lakh with 30 *per cent* Central Government subsidy. The effective fund liability was ₹100.73 lakh. As per the guidelines prescribed by the GoI, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, solar panels shall have the warranty for peak watt capacity not less than 90 *per cent* at the end of 12 years and not less than 80 per cent at the end of 25 years. Further, warranty cover for other mechanical and electrical components should be five years. The work was tendered vide tender No 01/15/P5/CET on 09/07/2015 and M/s Su-Kam Power System Ltd was selected as successful bidder with lowest quote. An agreement was executed before commencing the work on

12/02/2016 and panel installation was completed on 17/06/2016. A Moulded case circuit breaker with high rating (320 Amp) needs to be installed at Electrical Control room for interfacing with grid. The procurement and installation were done in February 2017 with an additional cost ₹22,557. The 135 KW solar plant was divided into four inverters with 15 kW, 20kW, 50kW, 50kW capacities. As the monthly electricity bill amounted to the range of ₹five lakh to ₹ seven lakh, the Principal instructed the Electrical department to conduct a study and report the status of the solar panel. Ideally a solar plant with 135 Kw capacity should generate a minimum of 16000 units per month in average condition. However, as per the study report, the power generation at CET in January 2025 was 6439 units. In the study it was proved that both the 50kW inverters were defective and other two inverters were working with reduced production. Further, it pointed out defects in several solar panels, stains in panels, damaged connection boxes, burnt cables, panels were blown away by wind etc. Since the generation was not recorded for the periods in use, audit could not analyze the effective relief in monthly electricity bill and variation in production.

In this regard, audit observed the following points.

a) The actual date of completion and commissioning of the project was not recorded in file.

b) The details of power generated by the solar plant and log book was not recorded since its installation.

c) The multiple defects for long indicated lack of proper care and maintenance of the system by the user.

d) As power generation is too low, CET could not attain the target of minimizing the electricity charge.

Audit further observed that no action was taken till-date to rectify the defects. As no back details was furnished, audit could not assess the loss incurred due to defects occurred by misutilization of installed plant.

Urgent action may be taken to rectify the defects detected in the solar power plant and necessary records may be maintained to document the connected data such as power generation, bill amount, etc.

The position is brought to notice no reply was furnished.

2. Central Polytechnic College, Vattiyoorkkavu-

As per GO(Rt) No.87/2020/Power dated 06/08/2020, the Government directed all departments to explore the possibility of installing solar plants in their buildings to meet electricity requirements. Accordingly, the DTE issued instructions on 26/04/2021, directing institutions under its jurisdiction to install rooftop solar plants as feasible.

Following this directive, an agreement was executed between KSEB and the Principal of CPTC, Vattiyoorkavu, on 09/08/2021 under Soura Project (Model I). As per Clause 6 of the agreement, the institution was eligible to consume 10 per cent of the total AC energy output free of cost, in exchange for providing its rooftop to KSEB Ltd. This 10% free energy was to be adjusted in the institution's monthly/bimonthly electricity bill. Subsequently, a 24.75 KWp Solar PV system was installed on 30/07/2022.

In this connection, audit observed the following.

i) Despite the agreement ensuring a 10% return on energy, this has not been reflected in the electricity bills since the installation in July 2022. The institution failed to monitor whether KSEB was adjusting the guaranteed return in its electricity bills. No action has been taken by the institution to claim this benefit.
Immediate action must be taken to ensure that the 10% guaranteed return on energy is adjusted in the institution's electricity bill as per the agreement since its installation. The institution should engage with KSEB authorities and demand compliance with the agreed terms.

Proper monitoring mechanisms should be established to track energy savings and ensure that the institution receives the expected benefits.

ii) The agreement does not bear the signature of the State Nodal Officer/designated officer of KSEB Ltd, raising concerns about its validity and enforceability.

The institution should rectify the deficiency in the agreement by obtaining the required signature from the designated KSEB officer to avoid potential disputes in the future.

The matter is brought to notice for urgent action and necessary remarks, no reply was furnished.

XII. Observations on AICTE scheme implementation (OBS-1897849)

The Higher Education Department issued guidelines and amendments between 2008 and 2011 regarding the approval process for starting new colleges, introducing new courses in existing colleges, increasing intake capacity, closing existing courses, changing the institution's name, and extending approvals under the AICTE scheme. As per the guidelines, to obtain approval for the above purposes, colleges are required to submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by both the Government and KTU. Colleges must apply through the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) to obtain the Government's NOC by remitting the fees prescribed by the Government at the time. In this regard, the following observations are made:

1. The Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) is not maintaining proper records of colleges enrolled under the AICTE scheme. Consequently, it is unaware of colleges pending annual renewal under the scheme, which may result in financial losses to the government.

   a. Proper records may be maintained to document details of all colleges under the scheme, including the number of seats in various courses.

   b. As per the guidelines, each application must be submitted to the government through the DTE. Compliance with this requirement by each college may be monitored by the DTE.

2. The audit observed a significant cash balance in the designated current account, of ₹3,72,07,452 and ₹3,24,41,374 as of 31 March 2023 and 2024, respectively. Although the Higher Education Department issued instructions vide Circular No. 7249/G2/11/Hr.Edn dated 03/07/2011 regarding the utilization of AICTE funds collected as fees from colleges, approval from the Finance Department has not been obtained for the utilization of these funds. Concurrence from the Finance Department be obtained for fund utilization.

3. Audit observed that the cash transactions in this account are not routed through the main cash book. Further, it was noted that no other records are maintained at DTE to document the cash transactions from this account, except for a cheque issue register and an advance register, making it difficult to ascertain the purpose of the transactions from the bank statement. Necessary registers and documents may be prepared to accurately record all transactions, and these transactions should be routed through the main cash book. Reconciliation of bank account figures with cash book figures to be conducted at the end of each month to ensure the accuracy of recorded transactions has not been done.

When the above points were pointed out in audit, no reply was furnished.

Further progress awaited.

XIII. Unrealized Government / University revenue (OBS-1889859)

Government provides aid to the students who were admitted under reservation/merit quota in the category SC, ST, OBC, OEC etc as egrantz. The students need to apply online to receive grants. Upon applying and after scrutiny by the institution, the Government Department concerned (SC/ST DD for SC/ST students and BCDD for OBC students) passes the eligible amount to the students through their bank account. The components include tuition fee, admission fee which owes to government revenue, special fee like calendar, stationery, union, etc for the institution and exam fee, athletic and arts fee, affiliation to the University. Generally, the department makes the disbursement with a delay of six to eighteen months. On receipt of grant the students need to remit it to the college for onward remittance to Government/ University depending on the purpose of grant like, tuition fee, exam fee, special fee etc.

Scrutiny of data obtained from selected five engineering colleges, audit noticed some students who were in last year / semester of the course during 2021-22 to 2023-24 were reluctant to pay the fees to the college upon request. These students received the grant from department after passing out from college in their own bank account as direct beneficiary transfer (DBT). Students who failed, dropouts and who are unwilling to continue studies were included in this category. The status of unrealized fees in the following five selected engineering colleges was as follows.

Institution	Students	Govt fee ₹	University fee ₹	Total ₹
CET	33	289190	135445	424635
TKM CE Kollam	45	672820	361465	1034285
MACE, Kothamangalam	05	43450	--	43450
NSS CE, Palakkad	07	44100	32100	76200
GEC Wayanad	38	182640	11405	194045

In this regard, audit observed failure in the system of Direct beneficiary transfer (DBT) for disbursing fees directly to student account and this resulted in non-realizing fees accountable to Government, University / College.

No reply was furnished to audit.

XIV. Functioning of Continuing Education Cell under colleges and polytechnics and other irregularities (OBS-1895882)

Most of engineering colleges and polytechnics have a Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) cell that conducts various courses, including part-time and diploma courses. Additionally, material testing, consultancy work, and SR projects are carried out by faculty members, with accounts related to these activities being maintained either by the CCE or an independent unit within the college (such as ITC&SR or a testing center). These units are typically managed by a faculty member, with contract staff appointed to facilitate their operations.

During the test check of records related to the functioning of these units, the audit observed the following.

i. As per G.O. (MS) No. 699/91/HEdn dated 13/05/1991, 60 per cent of the material testing fees collected must be remitted to Government revenue. Scrutiny of records pertaining to TKM College of Engineering, Kollam, for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24 showed that the college received ₹26,59,790 from private parties for material testing. Accordingly, ₹15,95,874 should have to be remitted to Government revenue. However, this requirement has not been complied with, and the amount remains in the designated bank account. Cases from periods prior to 2022-23 need to be reviewed.

ii. Part time courses are being conducted at CET, Trivandrum. However, honorarium was provided to staffs involved in the admission process. As no guidelines were issued in this respect by Government, this expenditure is to be get ratified by the Government. Further, guidelines may be formulated and approved by Finance department in this regard.

iii. Mar Athanasius College of Engineering, Kothamangalam, remits the revenue portion of consultancy charges monthly, which is against the provisions of the Kerala Financial Code (KFC), Volume I, Rule 10(2). As per this rule, government officers are required to remit their daily collections into the treasury on the next working day.

iv. Out of the total collection of ₹31,99,277 received as testing charges by CPTC, Vattiyoorkavu, during the period 2018-19 to 2023-24, the institution was required to remit ₹19,19,566 (60 per cent of the total receipts) as the government's share. However, the audit observed a short remittance of ₹46,906/-.

v. NSS College of Engineering, Palakkad, and Government Engineering College, Wayanad, have not provided the data required by the audit regarding the collection and remittance of the government's share from material testing and consultancy charges, as the records are not readily available with the institutions.

vi. As per Kerala Treasury Code (KTC), Volume I, Rule 89(a), government servants who receive money on behalf of the government are required to maintain a cash book in Form T.R. 7A. However, the cash books maintained by the institutions for recording transactions related to material testing and consultancy work do not conform to the prescribed format under KTC. Moreover, these transactions are not routed through the main cash book of the institutions.

Further, the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) does not maintain any records related to the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) cell or the individual units responsible for accounting material testing charges, consultancy charges, and SR projects in various colleges and polytechnics. As these units handle large financial transactions, DTE should review the existing rules and regulations and seek approval from the Finance Department.

When this being pointed out, no reply was given by the department.

Compliance report awaited.

XV. Unrealized Government revenue from testing and consultancy fees- TKM CE (OBS-1892388)

Government vide GO(Ms)No.48/83/HEdn dated 10.03.1983 and clarification thereby (letter no. DP2/8510/99 dated 17.08.1999), approved rules for taking up of consultation work by staff of the private engineering colleges and polytechnics. As per the order 35 per cent of the consultation fee received from the firm/agency who utilized needs to be remitted to the Government as revenue, 15 per cent for research and development of the institution, 50 per cent to the staff members. Further, Government vide GO MS No.699/91/HEdn dated 13/05/1991 and GO (Rt) No.330/24/HEdn dated 05/03/2024 approved and revised rates, guidelines for testing to be carried out by Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics. As per the latest revision (March 24) of rates, 50 per cent of the testing charges (60 per cent pre revised till March 2024) need to be remitted to the Government as revenue. TKM College of Engineering, Kollam is maintaining bank account in SBI, Karicode branch (A/c No. 57017400770) for remitting the charges received from the firms / agency who requires tests/ consultancy of the college. The college utilizes the amount thus received for developmental purposes, remuneration to the faculty etc. On verification, Audit noticed that no amount was remitted to Government till date other than GST portion of the fees by the college. The balance remained in account as on 31/03/2024 was ₹74,39,882/-.

Audit test checked the charges received by the college towards testing and consultancy during April 2022 to January 2025 (audit date), and the status were as in table,

Year	Testing ₹	Govt revenue @	Consultancy ₹	Govt revenue @
2022-23	1585855		3827131	
2023-24	1073935		4678209	
Total	*2659790*	*60%= 15,95,874*	--	
2024- 25 till audit	1392399	*50%= 6,96,200*	4309191	*35% of 1,28,14,531*
		Total= 22,92,074	12814531	*Total= 44,85,086*

In this regard audit observed nonrealization of Government revenue (testing and consultancy combined) of ₹67,77,160, for the test checked period (April 2022 to January 2025) by college against Government direction. Further, year wise details regarding receipt of testing charges and consultancy charges (separately) by the college till 2021-22 had not furnished to Audit.

No reply was furnished.

XVI. Service Matters

1. Short recovery of rent from employees residing in Govt. quarters (OBS 1837344 & 1852671)

As per G.O.(P) No.07/2016/Fin dated 20/01/2016 rent at the rate of two per cent of the basic pay will be recovered from Government employees with scale of pay ₹35700-75600 and above residing in Government Quarters with effect from 01/02/2016

As per G.O.(P) No.27/2021/Fin dated 10/02/2021 rent rate of two per cent of the basic pay will be recovered from Government employees with scale of pay ₹50,200-1,05,300 and above residing in Government Quarters with effect from 01 March 2021. In the case of employees who do not come under the State Government scales of pay (e.g. All India Service

Officers, those on UGC/AICTE/NJPC scale), rent recovery will be 2% of Basic Pay with effect from 01.03.2021.

A test check of Quarter Allotment Register and connected records on SPARK etc. revealed short recovery of rent from the following employees occupying quarters. This resulted in excess drawal of ₹ 1,77,462 /-as shown in ***Annexure II***

These cases may be examined (Quarter allotment date as per SPARK and Quarter Allotment Register) and steps may be taken for regularisation of the excess drawal. Similar cases may also be examined and action may be taken for regularization, as per rules, if any, under intimation to audit.

2. Excess payment of HRA for Leave Period exceeding 180 days-CET (OBS-1838590)

As per Rule 93 (iii)) of KSR, Part-I, Hill Tract Allowance, House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance admissible from time to time will be payable during periods of all leave with allowances, if the total period of such leave at a time does not exceed 180 days or if the actual duration of the leave exceeds 180 days for the first 180 days of such leave. A test check of service books and details of pay and allowances paid showed that HRA was paid to Smt Rejithra Rajendran, Statistical Assistant (Gr II), Pen No 783418 for periods of leave in continuation of 180 days as appended below.

Name, Designation & PEN No	Period of Leave	Month	HRA admissible ₹)	HRA Sanctioned (in ₹)	Excess HRA (in ₹)
Smt Rejithra Rajendran, Statistical Assistant (Gr. II) Pen no 783418, HRA- ₹ 1500/- pm (w.e.f. 09.2018) Rs.3650/-pm (w.e.f. 09.2022)	25.10.2018 to 22.04.2019 (180ML), 23.04.2019 to 25.05.2019 (33 EL)	04.2019	1100	1500	400
		05.2019	290	1500	1210
	06.04.2022 to 02.10.2022 (180ML), 03.10.2022 to	10.2022	235	3650	3415
		11.2022	2312	3650	1338

	11.11.2022 (40EL)				
Total					6363

This case may be reviewed and excess drawn if any may be regularized. Similar cases if any, may also be reviewed and regularized, as per rules, under intimation to audit.

No reply was furnished.

3. Grant of full pay and allowance during HPL –Non recovery of excess payment of ₹4,687/-in CPTC, Vattiyoorkavu (OBS-1852699)

On verification of Service books, PBR on SPARK and connected records, Audit found that the following officials who had availed Half Pay Leave (HPL)during different periods were paid full Pay and Allowances. This resulted in an excess payment of ₹4,687(Approximate amount) as given below.

Sl.No	Name, Designation, PEN, Pay	Period in HPL	Amount due (₹) (Pay+DA + Rk_Al+PTA)	Amount drawn (₹) (Pay+DA +Rk_Al+ +PTA)	Excess Amount (₹)	Remarks
	Kumari Anitha S, Cook PEN: 798893	17/11/2021 to 19/11/2021 (3 Days)	29,389	30,326	937	
		07/12/2021 to 1812/2021 (12 Days)	26,576	30,326	3750	
Total					**4,687**	

The case may be reviewed and excess drawn, if any, may be recovered under intimation to audit. Similar cases may also be examined, and action may be taken for regularization of excess pay, under intimation to Audit.
No reply was furnished.

4. **Non Settlement of advances of Interest Free Medical Advance (OBS-1836439)**

Government vide GO(P)/298/2001 H&FWD dated 20/11/2001 issued instructions to avoid misuse of Interest Free Medical Advance (IFMA) and its timely adjustment, all loan through medical reimbursement claim should be settled within six months from the date of drawal. For belated adjustment interest at the rate of 12 per cent should be levied on the outstanding amount. The balance amount should be recovered from next month onwards. In case of misuse or non-adherence of medical rules, the loan amount should be recovered in lump sum and disciplinary action is to be initiated. It was noticed that there were 12 cases of non-settlement of IFMA amounting to ₹37.44 lakh as shown **Annexure** I.

The non-adherence of the rules, stipulations in the internal as well as State Government Circulars, Orders issued from time to time were noticed and urgent remedial action may be taken to settle the IFMA.

It was replied that cases of Smt Sini Chandran, Asst. Professor and Sri Anidas (Late) are under process with the Government and DTE. Progress regarding the other cases may also be intimated.

XVII. Internal Control Mechanism

1. **Idling of huge bank balance in outdated accounts due to non-compliance with Government instructions (OBS-1895879)**

Two accounts (Account No. 000006717979772330 and 00000067179779288) were opened on April 10, 2012, at State Bank of India, Temple View Branch, Thiruvananthapuram, in the name of DTE in connection with M.Tech admissions. As online transactions were not possible under these accounts and due to delays in refunding the fees remitted manually by students to their respective colleges, DTE requested the Finance Department for concurrence to close these accounts and open a new account. Accordingly, sanction was accorded by the Finance (Streamlining) Department to open a new account after closing the earlier accounts and transferring the balance amount to the new account.

Following this, a current account (No. 39629063753) was opened at State Bank of India, Temple View Branch, Thiruvananthapuram, in September 2020. However, audit observed that the earlier accounts were not closed, and the balances were not transferred to the newly opened account, which constitutes a clear violation of government instructions. The balances retained in these accounts are as follows:

Account No.	Amount retained
00000067179779288	₹1,49,56,198
000006717979772330	₹ 9,83,735
Total Amount Retained	₹ 1,59,39,933

When this was pointed out in audit, no reply was furnished.

Immediate action may be taken to close these older accounts and transfer the outstanding balances to the new account as per the government's directive.

2. Accumulation of special fee in PD/ bank account of institutions (OBS-1836686)

College authorities had collected special fees for various purposes at prescribed rates from each student during their study. The special fee thus collected has to be utilized by the principal for specified purposes viz, showing audio visual programs, purchase of laboratory items, stationery items, library books, calendar, magazine, promotion of union activities, organizing sports activities and promotion of art and cultural activities among students. However, as per the records it was noticed that the fund was not utilized effectively for the intended purposes. The money collected was transferred to a treasury PD account or bank account. The expenditure in respect of the components such as Women Study, College Development, Magazine, Association, Visual Education, and Calendar etc were very negligible.

Institution	Accumulated balance as on 31.12.2024 (₹)	Remarks
CET	3,36,19,601	
TKM CE Kollam	27,91,910	
MACE, Kothamangalam	1,94,32,053	No item wise cash book is maintained
NSS CE, Palakkad	1,68,91,931	
Thyagaraja Poly, Amballur, Thrissur	31,39,000	No item wise cash book is maintained
Govt Commercial Institute, Alappuzha	1,13,415	

The increase in balance showed that necessary sanctions were not obtained from the higher authorities for its utilisation. As item wise cash book for special fee was not maintained by MACE Kothamangalam and Thyagaraja Poly Technic, Amballur, item-wise balance was not assessable in audit. Underutilization of the special fees collected for the intended purposes resulted in huge accumulation as well as idling of money in the account.

In this regard action taken for the preparation of item wise cash book for special fee and effective utilization of accumulated special fee may be intimated.

The Principal, CET replied that the accumulated amount pertains to the years 2021-22 and 2022-23 as due to COVID, major activities were not conducted. The Current balance involves University fees and Caution deposit which are payable on demand. Also, a proposal is submitted to DTE for the purchase of bus for students.

Further progress awaited.

3. Delay in paying electricity bill leading to penalty - THS Nedumangad (OBS-1852736)

During the test check of contingent bills, Audit observes that the THS Nedumangad had been paying penalties on the Electricity bills continuously from the period March 2021 to March 2022 amounting ₹ 2422.76. The details of some of the penalties paid are as follows:

Sl No.	Period of billing	Penalty Paid (₹)
1	March 2021	137
2	May 2021	252.86
3	June 2021	320
4	August 2021	579
5	September 2021	525.86
6	October 2021	398.73
7	February 2022	198.72
8	March 2022	10.59
Total		**2422.76**

Verify the occurrence of similar cases and the reason for the penalties paid may be stated.

No reply was furnished.

4. Underutilization of the occupiable staff quarters –Government Engineering College, Wayanad (OBS-1868875)

On a test check of records pertaining to the Staff Quarters, it was noticed that 36 (Thirty Six) Staff Quarters n which are occupiable / usable are not allotted and are idling. The details are as appended below.

Total number of Quarters available	Total Number of Quarters Occupied	Total Number of Idling/Unoccupied Staff Quarters
73	37	36

Allotment of occupiable Staff Quarters to the needy staff will not only be of help to the staff, but also will be a step to save the expenses in respect of the House Rent Allowance. Further, revenue generation in respect of Rent/Licence Fee is also possible which will be of help to balance the burden of Building Maintenance charges. Underutilization of large number of Staff Quarters is noticed.

No reply was furnished.

5. Non-maintenance of progress report on construction works by DTE (OBS-1871251)

Audit noticed that there were huge volumes of constructions undergoing under Directorate of technical education in various institutes as Deposit work. Audit enquired about details of works in various institutions, like AS issued to various institutes, details of work terminated, foreclosed, works under court cases, progress report of works etc. It was replied that funds were transferred to respective institutions and neither the connected records /details of those works nor any periodic progress report showing the status of works allotted to PWD are available at DTE. A monthly progress report of all the undergoing works under DTE irrespective of various institute should be maintained at DTE itself to know the present status of the work.

Non maintenance of registers to record required data in connection with construction is noticed.

No reply was furnished.

6. Non maintenance of DCB Statement(OBS-1895875)

Every officer responsible for collecting revenue is required to maintain a Demand, Collection, and Balance (DCB) statement to ensure proper assessment and monitoring of outstanding dues. As per Article 262 of the Kerala Financial Code, revenue-collecting officers must maintain prescribed registers and submit monthly DCB statements to the appropriate authorities. This ensures transparency, accountability, and effective monitoring of revenue collections. The DCB statement also facilitates the prevention of fund misappropriation by ensuring that all collections are properly recorded and accounted for.

The Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) and the institutions under its jurisdiction collect revenue from various sources, including tuition fees, hostel fees, e-grants, testing and consultancy fees, quarters rent and other service-related charges. However, audit observed that no DCB statement is prepared at the DTE level, and none of the test-checked institutions.

Steps should be taken to implement a standardized system for maintaining DCB statements at both the DTE and institutional levels. Further, concerned authorities should issue necessary instructions to all institutions under the DTE to comply with these financial regulations and ensure strict adherence to the Kerala Financial Code provisions.

When the matter was brought to notice, no reply was furnished.

PART-III

Follow up on findings outstanding of previous Inspection Reports

IR Number	Pending Para
8-3210/2012-13	Part IIB- I, III
8-3763/2016-17	IIB-I, II, III, VI, VII, VIII, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI
8-3764/2016-17 (CA)	5, 6, 7
8-3840/2017-18	Part IIA- II. IIB-I, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX,
8-3877/2018-19	Part IIA- II. IIB-II, III, VI, VIII, XII, XIX, XX
17-8/2019-20	Part IIB- I, III, VII, XIII, XVI, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXV,
17-14/2022-23	Part IIA- I, III. IIB- III, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVIII, XIX ,XXI, XXII, XXV
17-17/2022-23	Part IIB- I to XII, XIV, XVI, XVII, XIX to XXII, XXIV to XXVIII, XXX to XLV
17-18/2024-25	Part IIA- I to III, IIB- I to L

PART-IV

Best Practice

Nil.

PART-V

Acknowledgement

Audit acknowledges the cooperation extended by the auditee

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Senior Deputy Accountant General/AMG II-Audit I

Annexure I

Non-Settlement of Interest Free Medical Advance

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Name and Institution	File No.	Amount (₹)	Remarks
1	Smt. Sheela P S Gardener A5/15492/2017/DTE	GEC Idukki	G.O(Rt)No.819/2017/HEDN dated:02.05.2017	84,000	The matter is now under the consideration of Govt.
2	Smt. Ramla T A Tradesman A5/23659/2019/DTE	GEC Idukki	G.O(Rt)No.1578/2019/HEDN dated:30.08.2019	2,00,000	Processing in DTE
3	Smt. Sini Chandran Asst. Professor A5/45265/2019/DTE	CET Thiruvananthapuram	GO(Rt)No.62/2020/HEDN dated:13.01.2020	2,00,000	Proposal pending with Govt. for the settlement of IFMA
4	Sri. Anidas M (Late) Trade Instructor A5/1420/20/DTE	CET Thiruvananthapuram	GO(Rt)No.316/2020/HEDN dated:24.02.2020	1,60.000	Processing in DTE-Penal Interest is being calculated
5	Sri. Bijumon P.T Tradesman A5/19210/21/DTE	RIT Kottayam	GO(Rt)No.1005/2021/HEDN dated:05.08.2021	3,00,000	Processing in DTE
6	Jaikumar.T.N, Trade Instructor, A7/3681/14/DTE	THS, Pala	G.O(Rt)No.2815/14/HEDN dated:27/11/2014	1,50,000	Even though IFMA was taken on 2014, the amount was utilized in 2021. The matter is now under the consideration of Govt.
7	Mothy.M, (Late) Lecturer A7/9330/2015/DTE	GPTC, Kottayam	GO(Rt)No.1117/15/HEDN dated:27/05/2015	3,00,000	The amount was utilized in 2015 itself. The advance was settled by DTE as per Proceedings No. A7/9330/205/DTE by mistake. However now the matter is under the consideration of Govt.
8	Jineesh.P.S, Workshop Instructor A7/19135/2017/DTE	MTI, Thrissur	GO(Rt)No.925/18/HEDN	1,50,000	The amount was utilized in 2015 itself. Bills and other .documents despatched to DHS for knowing

					admissible amount IFMA in 2018 itself
9	Vaishak.V Workshop Instructor A7/43143/17/DTE	Govt. Technical High School, Manjeri	GO(Rt)No.2132/17/HEDN dated: 23/11/2017	2,00,000	The amoujnt utilized in 2019 itself. The matter is now under the consideration of Govt.
10	Baiju U V, Trade Instructor A7/45640/18/DTE	GPTC, Kozhikode	GO(Rt)No.192/2019/HEDN dated: 5/02/2019	2,50,000	The amount utilized in 2018 itself. The matter is now under the consideration of Govt.
11	Manoj N, Office Attendant A7/38399/19/DTE	Govt. THS, Nedumangad	GO(Rt)No.2039/19/HEDN dated: 15/11/2019	2,00,000	The amount utilized in 2021 itself. The matter is now under the consideration of Govt.
12	Sreekumar M, Trade Instructor A7/43663/21/DTE	GTHS, Nedumangad	GO(Rt)No.44/22/HEDN dated: 7/01/2022	15,50,000	The amount utilized in 2021 itself. Bills and Original documents send to DHS for knowing Admissible amount on 15/10/2022
			Total	37,44,000	

Annexure II

Short/excess recovery of rent

Sl No	Name & Designation, PEN No, Date of Allotment of Quarter	Basic Pay/period	Rent be recovered (₹)	Rent recovered (₹)	Short/Excess Recovery (₹)
1	Indulekha E P, Associate Professor in Civil Engineering, 608252, 26.07.2019 (as Per Quarter Allotment Register)	37400+9000 (July 2019 to June 2020)	928x12=11136	1480x12=17760	6624(Excess)
		38800+9000 (July 2020 to Feb 2021)	956x8=7648	(1480x4=5920) + (1571x4=6284) = 12204	4556(Excess)
		139400/- (March 21 to Dec 21)	2788x10=27880	(1571x1=1571) + (785x4=3140) + (956x4=3824) = 8535	19345
		143600/- (Jan 22m to Dec 22)	2872x12= 34464	(956x5=4780) + (2872x7=20104) = 24884	9580
		147900/- Jan 23 to Dec 23)	2958x12=35496	(2872x2=5744) + (2958x10=29580) +172= 35496	0

		152300/- (Jan 24 to Dec 24)	3046x12=36552	2958x12=35496	1056
		156900/- (Jan 25)	3138x1=3138	2958x1=2958	180
		Total			**18981**
2	Bringle C Das, Assistant Professor, 765815, 03.01.2022 (As per Quarter Allotment Register)	71000/- (Jan 22 to June 22)	(1328x1=1328) +(1420x5=7100) = 8428	1336x6=8016	412
		73100/- (July 22 to June23)	1462x12=17544	1336x12=16032	1512
		75300/- (July 23 to June 24)	1506x12=18072	(1336x3=4008) + (1418x9=12762) = 16770	1302
		77600/- (July 24 to Jan 25)	1552x7=10864	1418x7=9926	938
		Total			**4164**
3	Sumesh Divakaran, Professor in Computer Science and Engineering, 607261, 25.05.2021	193800/- (25.05.2021 to June 21	875+3876=4751	262+1162=1424	3327
		199600/- (July 21 to June 22)	3992x12=47904	1162x12=13944	33960
		205600/- (July 22 to June 23)	4112x12=49344	(1162x7=8134) + (1540x5=7700) + 1890 = 17724	31620
		211800/- (July23 to June 24)	4236x12=50832	1540x12=18480	32352
		218200/- July 24 to Jan 25)	4364x7=30548	1540x7=10780	19768

		Total			**121027**
4	Smitha S, Assistant Professor, 921617, 11.07.2022	59400/- July 22 to Sept 2023)	1188x15=17820	1154x15=17310	510
		61200/- (Oct 23 to June24)	1224x9=11016	1188x12=10692	324
		63000/- (July 24 to Jan 25)	1260x7=8820	1188x7=8316	504
		Total			**1338**
5	Aruna S, Trade Instructor PEN: 394185	50200 (01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022)	12,048	0	12,048
		51400 (01/01/2023 to 01/12/2023)	12,336	0	12,336
		52600 (01/01/2024 to 12/01/2024	12,624	5,056	6,568
TOTAL					**177462**