

Third Party Transparency Audit Report
of
**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES NAUTICAL &
ENGINEERING TRAINING (CIFNET)**

Head Office:
Fine Arts Avenue, Kochi - 682016, India.

By
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Deputy Registrar
&
Nodal Officer-RTI

YEAR
2024 - 25



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Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering and Technology

गनी खान चौधरी इंजीनियरिंग और प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान

(A Centrally Funded Technical Institute (CFTI) under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) (निक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के तहत सीएफटीआई)

Narayanpur, Malda, West Bengal-732141

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Audit Summary

To minimize the necessity for citizens to file formal RTI applications, **Section 4(2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005** mandates that every **Public Authority (PA)** proactively disseminate comprehensive information to the public at regular intervals. This dissemination should leverage diverse communication platforms, with a particular emphasis on accessibility through the **internet**.

In alignment with the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** guidelines, as referenced in **OM No. 1/6/2011-IR dated 07/11/2019**, all Public Authorities are required to undergo an **annual Third-Party Audit** of their proactive disclosure practices under **Section 4 of the RTI Act**. This mechanism serves to enhance institutional **accountability, openness, and citizen empowerment** by fostering greater transparency in governance.

The following thematic areas are expected to be addressed comprehensively in the proactive disclosure content available on the Public Authority's official website:

- 1. Details of Organizational Structure and Functional Mandate**
 - Information about the institution's vision, mission, duties, and organizational hierarchy.
- 2. Financial Information and Programme Implementation**
 - Budget allocations, financial statements, and status of schemes and projects.
- 3. Public-Oriented Information Dissemination**
 - Communication in formats and languages that are easily understandable and widely accessible to all citizens.
- 4. E-Governance and Digital Initiatives**
 - Details of online services, ICT applications, and digitization efforts undertaken by the authority.
- 5. Statutory Disclosures Prescribed by the Authority**
 - Any additional disclosures mandated under internal policies or governing regulations.
- 6. Voluntary Disclosure of Information**
 - Proactive publication of information without waiting for formal requests, reflecting a culture of openness.

Audit Objectives:

The principal objectives of conducting this Third-Party RTI Transparency Audit are as follows:

- ❖ To review and assess the nature, scope, and accuracy of information proactively disclosed by the Public Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- ❖ To evaluate the adequacy, clarity, and accessibility of the disclosed information vis-à-vis the statutory requirements laid down under Section 4 of the RTI Act.
- ❖ To identify existing gaps, deficiencies, or inconsistencies in the current proactive disclosure practices that may hinder transparency or public access to information.
- ❖ To provide actionable recommendations and strategic guidance aimed at strengthening compliance with Section 4 obligations, thereby enhancing institutional transparency and accountability.

Audit Methodology:

The audit process was conducted based on a thorough review of the **Self-Appraisal Report (SAR)** submitted by **CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES NAUTICAL & ENGINEERING TRAINING (CIFNET)**, along with a comprehensive evaluation of the content available on its official public portal. The assessment was carried out in accordance with the **guidelines prescribed by the Central Information Commission (CIC), New Delhi**, specifically focusing on compliance with the proactive disclosure requirements outlined under **Sections 4(1), 4(2), 4(3), and 4(4) of the RTI Act, 2005**.

Each relevant component of the **CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES NAUTICAL & ENGINEERING TRAINING (CIFNET)**'s website was critically examined during the **online transparency audit**, and structured feedback was provided on the presentation, completeness, and accessibility of the disclosed information. The audit further entailed a gap analysis to pinpoint areas requiring enhancement.

The findings from this evaluation have been synthesized to develop a set of **conclusions and actionable recommendations**, aimed at improving the **CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES NAUTICAL & ENGINEERING TRAINING (CIFNET)**'s adherence to the statutory transparency norms.

Observations and Recommendations:

The audit reveals that **CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES NAUTICAL & ENGINEERING TRAINING (CIFNET)** has made commendable efforts in aligning its website content with the **Central Information Commission (CIC) Guidelines** pertaining to proactive disclosure under the RTI Act. A substantial amount of relevant information is accessible through the **CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES NAUTICAL & ENGINEERING TRAINING (CIFNET)**'s public portal. However, there remains **scope for enhancement** to ensure more comprehensive transparency and ease of information access. The following observations and recommendations are submitted for consideration:

- **Addressing Grading Deficiencies:**

The Organization/Institute/Establishment's is encouraged to thoroughly review the **section-wise audit gradings** marked as "**Partially Met**" or "**Not Met**" and take **targeted corrective actions** to bring each parameter to a "**Fully Met**" status. This will significantly improve the overall transparency rating.

Date: 23.06.2025



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