

F.No. DGT-11014/8/2025-O/o DIR (TC)
Government of India
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Directorate General of Training

7th Floor, Kaushal Bhawan, New Moti Bagh
Date: 24.02.2026

CORRIGENDUM

In partial modification of the Office Memorandum No. DGT-11014/8/2025-O/o DIR (TC) dated 16.1.2026 (copy enclosed) regarding constitution of Strategic Advisory and Reforms Taskforce for Holistic ITI Transformation (SARTHI), the following correction is hereby made:

Under the category "Up to two experts with special knowledge and experience in matters relating to Labour"

For: President, Indian National Trade Union Congress

Read: General Secretary, National Front of Indian Trade Unions

2 . Other terms and conditions mentioned in the aforementioned Office Memorandum dated 16.1.2026 shall remain unchanged.

3. This issues with the approval of competent authority.


(S.K.Gupta)

Deputy Director General

To

All the Members of SARTHI

Copy for information to:

1. All Principal Secretaries / Secretaries (Skill Development), State Governments and Union Territory Administrations
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister, SDE
3. Sr. PPS to Secretary, MSDE
4. Sr. PS to Director General (Training), DGT
5. Regional Directors, RDSDEs

File No.: DGT-11014/8/2025-O/o DIR (TC)
Government of India
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Directorate General of Training

7th Floor, Kaushal Bhawan, New Moti Bagh

Date: 16.01.2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Constitution of Strategic Advisory and Reforms Taskforce for Holistic ITI Transformation - reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Directorate General's letter of even no. dated 21.10.2025 (copy attached) and to convey the constitution of **Strategic Advisory and Reforms Taskforce for Holistic ITI Transformation (SARTHI)** as detailed below:

- (i) **Chairman:** Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (ii) **Vice Chairman:** Minister from one of the participating State Governments overseeing vocational training under CTS (on a rotational basis)
- (iii) **Members:**
 - (a) Up to five Ministers from State Governments overseeing vocational training under CTS (on a rotational basis).
 - 1) Hon'ble Minister of Skill, Employment, and Entrepreneurship, Government of Rajasthan
 - 2) Hon'ble Minister of Professional Education & Skill Development Government of Uttar Pradesh
 - 3) Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Skill Development, and Technical Education, Government of Odisha
 - 4) Hon'ble Minister of Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship, Government of Gujarat
 - 5) Hon'ble Minister of Labour, Employment, Training and Factories, Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana
 - (b) Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
 - (c) Representative from the Ministry of Labour and Employment (not below the rank of Joint Secretary), Government of India
 - (d) Representative from the Ministry of Education (not below the rank of Joint Secretary), Government of India
 - (e) Representative from the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) (not below the rank of Joint Secretary), Government of India
 - (f) Representative from the Ministry of Heavy Industries (not below the rank of Joint Secretary), Government of India

- (g) Up to three Regional Directors from the Regional Directorates of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (on a rotational basis)
- 1) Regional Director, Regional Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Maharashtra
 - 2) Regional Director, Regional Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Haryana
 - 3) Regional Director, Regional Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Andhra Pradesh
- (h) Up to three representatives from public sector establishments
- 1) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
 - 2) Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
 - 3) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
- (i) Up to five representatives from private sector establishments
- 1) Tata Group/ Tata Motors Ltd.
 - 2) Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.
 - 3) WelsPun Living Ltd.
 - 4) Jubilant Ingrevia Ltd.
 - 5) Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone Ltd.
- (j) Up to two experts with special knowledge and experience in matters relating to industry and technical education
- 1) Prof. K.K.Pande, Former Dean, Teerthanker Mahaveer University
 - 2) Chief Executive Officer, IT-ITeS Sector Skill Council
- (k) Up to two experts with special knowledge and experience in matters relating to Labour
- 1) President, Indian National Trade Union Congress
 - 2) President, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh
- (l) One representative each from:
- (i) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
 - (ii) University Grants Commission (UGC)
 - (iii) National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)
 - (iv) National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)
 - (v) National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
- (m) Two Industry Associations
- 1) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
 - 2) Tata Technologies
- (n) Two representatives from Private ITIs / Private Training Partners / Private ITI Associations
- 1) Shri Praveen Faujdar, Director, Smt. Kamlesh Pvt. ITI, Bharatpur, Rajasthan.
 - 2) Representative from Indian Institute for Skills, Mumbai/ Ahmedabad.

- (iv) **Member Secretary:** Director General (Training), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
2. The following officers/experts shall be Special Invitees to the SARTHI:
- (i) India-Australia Federation,
 - (ii) FICCI
 - (iii) GIZ
 - (iv) Ms. Monalisha Ghosh, Director – International Relationships and Government Partnerships, Centurion University of Technology & Management
 - (v) Vice Chancellor, Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal, Haryana
3. Terms of office: The SARTHI shall be constituted for a term of three years and reconstituted at the end of each term. All appointed members shall serve for a period of three years.
4. Terms of Reference (ToR): The SARTHI shall advise the Central Government on the following matters:
- (i) Curriculum Development and Standardization:
 - a. Establish uniform standards for curriculum across trades and sectors to ensure consistency and quality.
 - b. Integrate advancements in technology and industry practices into training programs to keep them current and relevant.
 - c. Ensure alignment of the curriculum with industry needs and the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).
 - (ii) Trade Testing and Certification:
 - a. Establish national standards and guidelines for trade testing and examinations to ensure consistency and credibility of CTS
 - b. Support the integration of employer feedback on emerging technologies, processes, and job roles to enhance assessment processes
 - c. Provide policy direction on examination reforms and the adoption of modern assessment practices
 - d. Recommend bridge certifications or modules to enable CTS graduates to transition smoothly into higher NSQF levels.
 - (iii) Affiliation and Regulation of ITIs:
 - a. Recommend accreditation and affiliation norms for ITIs.
 - b. Suggest minimum requirements for infrastructure, equipment, instructor etc.
 - (iv) Policy Formulation and Advisory Role:
 - a. Advise the Central Government on skill training policies
 - b. Identify emerging skill needs and propose the introduction of new trades
 - c. Recommend policy reforms based on labour market trends.

- d. Provide guidance on aligning the ITI ecosystem with changing workforce requirements and national development priorities.
- e. Recommend measures to improve transparency, accountability, and institutional autonomy in the management of ITIs, including the implementation of digital tools and management information systems.
- f. Suggest strategies to enhance the participation of under-represented groups such as women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and youth from aspirational districts and underserved regions.
- g. Assess the evolving needs of the ITI ecosystem and recommend targeted interventions, where necessary, through Centrally Sponsored Schemes to address gaps in infrastructure, inclusivity, quality of training, and regional priorities.

(v) Industry Linkages:

- a. Promote industry–institute interaction to align training with industry requirements and encourage PPP in skill development.

(vi) Facilitate Inter-Ministerial and Institutional Coordination:

- a. Promote active coordination with key Ministries (such as Labour & Employment and Education), regulatory bodies (such as AICTE, UGC, and NCVET), and other stakeholders to enhance alignment of training under CTS with industry demands and the National Credit Framework (NCrF), ensure recognition of ITI qualifications, and promote the integration of vocational and formal education.

5. The Concept Note on “Establishment of the SARTHI” is attached for kind reference.
6. This issues with the approval of competent authority.



(S.K.Gupta)

Deputy Director General

To

All the Members of SARTHI

Copy for information to:

- (1) All Principal Secretaries / Secretaries (Skill Development), State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.
- (2) PS to Hon'ble Minister, SDE
- (3) Sr. PPS to Secretary, MSDE
- (4) Sr. PS to Director General (Training), DGT
- (5) Regional Directors, RDSDEs

Concept Note for Establishment

of

Central Council for Craftsmen Training Scheme

1. Background

1.1 With India's demographic advantage and the evolving needs of the industry, vocational training has emerged as a key national priority to equip youth with employable skills. The Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) has played a foundational role in this space by providing technical training through a network of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the country. As the skill ecosystem continues to expand and diversify, there is a growing need for enhanced coordination among key stakeholders — including Central and State Governments, industry, and regulatory bodies — to ensure that training remains responsive to labour market demands. In this context, establishing a national-level institutional mechanism in the form of a Central Council would provide strategic direction, facilitate policy convergence, and enable long-term planning for reforms under CTS.

1.2 The Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) ensures a steady flow of skilled workers in different trades for the domestic industry, to raise quantitatively and qualitatively the industrial production by systematic training, to reduce unemployment among the educated youth by providing them employable skills, to cultivate and nurture a technical and industrial attitude in the minds of younger generation. The scheme is a flagship initiative in the field of skill training, shaping craftsmen to meet both current and future manpower needs through a vast network of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) spread across various States and Union Territories in the country.

1.3 Vocational training is a concurrent subject of both Central and State Governments. The development of training schemes at the national level, evolution of policy, laying down of training standards and norms, conducting examinations, certification, etc., are the responsibilities of the Central Government, whereas the day-to-day administration of ITIs rests with the respective State Governments / UT Administrations.

1.4 The National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) acts as the regulator of the skilling ecosystem. In the domain of long-term training, the Directorate General of Training (DGT) has been designated by NCVET as the awarding body and assessment agency, thereby ensuring uniformity and quality in certification.

1.5 Industry, as the primary end user of skilled manpower trained through ITIs, has a significant stake in the effectiveness of the CTS. Its engagement has largely been in technical areas such as curriculum development, trade revision, and facilitation of practical training opportunities. This collaboration has helped align vocational training more closely with occupational requirements across various sectors.

1.6 Presently, training courses under the Craftsmen Training Scheme are being

offered through a network of 14,615 ITIs — comprising 3,316 government and 11,299 private ITIs — located across the country, with the objective of providing a skilled workforce to the industry in 169 NSQF-compliant trades.

2. Rationale:

2.1 The implementation of the CTS involves multiple stakeholders — the central government (through DGT), State Governments, industry partners, and regulatory bodies such as NCVET. While each of these entities plays a critical role, the absence of a single unified platform for strategic dialogue and coordination among them has limited the system's responsiveness to evolving skill demands.

2.2 Although industry contributes to technical aspects like curriculum development, it currently lacks structured representation in shaping national-level policies, long-term skilling strategies, and governance frameworks related to ITIs. As the principal consumer of the skilled workforce, industry's absence at the apex level creates a disconnect between training supply and labour market demand.

2.3 Similarly, while State Governments are the key implementers of CTS, their perspectives often do not get consistently integrated into national planning and reform processes. The lack of institutionalized coordination between DGT and States affects uniformity in quality and pace of implementation across regions.

2.4 In this context, there is a need to establish the Central Council for CTS — an apex-level advisory body that brings together all key stakeholders on a common platform. Such a body would help align training with emerging industry needs, ensure policy coherence, foster innovation, and enable long-term visioning for ITI reforms.

2.5 Since ITI graduates enter the workforce directly each year, the Ministry of Labour & Employment continues to play a vital role as a key stakeholder in the CTS. In addition, bodies under the Ministry of Education — such as AICTE and UGC — play an increasingly important role in the policy discourse around the integration of vocational and formal education. Active involvement of these ministries and bodies at the highest level of policy-making will significantly strengthen the ITI ecosystem by enabling alignment of qualifications, enhancing mobility for learners, and ensuring coherence in standards.

2.6 In apprenticeship training, the Central Apprenticeship Council — an apex statutory body under the Apprentices Act, 1961 — plays a key role by advising the Central Government on prescribing rules and regulations for apprentices under the Act.

2.7 The Central Council for CTS would serve as an institutional mechanism for structured engagement with stakeholders, thereby creating a framework for coordinated planning, policy convergence, and improved outcomes in the delivery of vocational training under the CTS. Given its strategic advisory role in driving long-term reforms and holistic transformation of ITIs, the **Council may be referred to as SARTHI — Strategic Advisory and Reforms Taskforce for Holistic ITI Transformation.**

3. Functions of Central Council for CTS

It will be an advisory body, comprising members from the Central and State/UT Governments, employers, and other key stakeholders. The Council shall advise the

Central Government on the following matters:

3.1 Curriculum Development and Standardization

- (i) Establish uniform standards for curriculum across trades and sectors to ensure consistency and quality.
- (ii) Integrate advancements in technology and industry practices into training programs to keep them current and relevant.
- (iii) Ensure alignment of the curriculum with industry needs and the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).

3.2 Trade Testing and Certification

- (i) Establish national standards and guidelines for trade testing and examinations to ensure consistency and credibility of CTS
- (ii) Support the integration of employer feedback on emerging technologies, processes, and job roles to enhance assessment processes
- (iii) Provide policy direction on examination reforms and the adoption of modern assessment practices
- (iv) Recommend bridge certifications or modules to enable CTS graduates to transition smoothly into higher NSQF levels.

3.3 Affiliation and Regulation of ITIs

- (i) Recommend accreditation and affiliation norms for ITIs.
- (ii) Suggest minimum requirements for infrastructure, equipment, instructors etc.

3.4 Policy Formulation and Advisory Role

- (i) Advise the Central Government on skill training policies
- (ii) Identify emerging skill needs and propose the introduction of new trades
- (iii) Recommend policy reforms based on labour market trends.
- (iv) Provide guidance on aligning the ITI ecosystem with changing workforce requirements and national development priorities.
- (v) Recommend measures to improve transparency, accountability, and institutional autonomy in the management of ITIs, including the implementation of digital tools and management information systems.
- (vi) Suggest strategies to enhance the participation of under-represented groups such as women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and youth from aspirational districts and underserved regions.
- (vii) Assess the evolving needs of the ITI ecosystem and recommend targeted interventions, where necessary, through Centrally Sponsored Schemes to address gaps in infrastructure, inclusivity, quality of training, and regional priorities.

3.5 Industry Linkages

(i) Promote industry–institute interaction to align training with industry requirements and encourage PPP in skill development.

3.6 Facilitate Inter-Ministerial and Institutional Coordination

(i) Promote active coordination with key Ministries (such as Labour & Employment and Education), regulatory bodies (such as AICTE, UGC, and NCVET), and other stakeholders to enhance alignment of training under CTS with industry demands and the National Credit Framework (NCrF), ensure recognition of ITI qualifications, and promote the integration of vocational and formal education.

4.0 Composition of Council

(i) Chairman:

Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

(ii) Vice Chairman:

Minister from one of the participating State Governments overseeing vocational training under CTS (on a rotational basis)

(iii) Members:

- a. Up to five Ministers from State Governments overseeing vocational training under CTS (on a rotational basis).
- b. Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- c. Representative from the Ministry of Labour and Employment (not below the rank of Joint Secretary)
- d. Representative from the Ministry of Education (not below the rank of Joint Secretary)
- e. Representative from the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) (not below the rank of Joint Secretary)
- f. Representative from the Ministry of Heavy Industries (not below the rank of Joint Secretary)
- g. Up to three Regional Directors from the Regional Directorates of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (on a rotational basis)
- h. Up to three representatives from public sector establishments
- i. Up to five representatives from private sector establishments
- j. Up to two experts with special knowledge and experience in matters relating to industry and technical education
- k. Up to two experts with special knowledge and experience in matters relating to labour
- l. One representative each from:
 - o All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
 - o University Grants Commission (UGC)
 - o National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)
 - o National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)
- m. Two Industry Associations

(iv) Member Secretary:

Director General (Training), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

5.0 Terms of offices

(i) The Central Council for CTS shall be constituted for a term of three years and reconstituted at the end of each term. All appointed members shall serve for a period of three years.

(ii) If a person becomes a member of the Council by virtue of holding a particular office or appointment, their membership shall cease upon relinquishing that office or appointment.

6.0 Time and place of meeting

The Council shall meet as often as necessary and at least once a year, on such date, time, and place as may be determined by the Chairman.

7.0 Notice for meeting

The Member Secretary shall provide at least fifteen days' notice for a meeting of the Council; however, a shorter notice may be issued in the event of an urgent meeting.

8.0 Quorum for the Council

One-third of the total membership of the Council shall constitute the quorum for any meeting of the Council.

9.0 Business by circulation

The Chairman may, under special circumstances, instead of convening a meeting may seek the opinion of the members on any proposal through circulation of papers.

10. Power to co-opt members

The Council may, at any time, invite any person to attend its meetings to render advice or assistance on any matter.

11.0 Fees and allowances to members

The Chairman and the representatives of the Central and State Governments shall claim travelling and daily allowances for attending meetings of the Council from the respective Governments, in accordance with the applicable rules. All other members of the Council shall be entitled to travelling and daily allowances from the Central Government, at the rates applicable to a first-grade Government officer, as per the relevant rules.