

## **Additional FAQs**

### **1. What is the Objective of Margdarshan Initiatives?**

A: Margdarshan initiative has been introduced with a broad objective to improve the quality of technical education of the country. Under this initiative a Mentor Institute (MI) is supported with an objective to mentor up to 10 nearby institutes in achieving the NBA accreditation and Senior academicians (serving or superannuated) nominated as Margdarshak (MD) to act as individual mentors for guiding beneficiary institutes to achieve the NBA accreditation

### **2. What is the expected outcome of Margdarshan initiatives?**

A: The overall outcome of the initiatives shall thus help the AICTE approved institutes with reform activities such that it helps in improving the quality and equity of technical education in India in the next three-year time frame.

### **3. Who can become a mentor institutes?**

A: Only AICTE approved institutions with 15 years or more existence and without any penal/administrative action from AICTE/other regulatory bodies can submit their proposal for Mentor Institute.

### **4. Is NBA accreditation mandatory for institutions to become MI?**

A: Yes, fifty percent or minimum three of the programs (UG and/or PG) running at the engineering institution should be NBA. (Refer page no.6, chapter-1 of Margdarshan Initiative)

### **5. What is the guidelines for selection of MBIs?**

A: Kindly refer chapter 2, para 5 of Margdarshan Initiative. Only AICTE approved institutes are eligible to receive mentoring from MIs. For the sake of convenience, the MIs are expected to choose MBIs which are in their vicinity with distance of approximately 200 km. MIs have to submit present status of department wise Pre-Qualifier (as per NBA format) of all the proposed MBIs.

### **6. Why Pre-Qualifiers of the proposed MBIs being asked from MIs.**

A: Pre-Qualifiers are the pointers to check the eligibility of the programme for NBA. It gives the clear insight of the programme going for accreditation like Admission percentage, Student Faculty ratio etc.

### **7. Can an MI having excusive diploma programme mentor a institute of UG programme?**

A: No, MI with diploma programme can only mentor another diploma institute.

**8. What is the tenure of project for Mentor Institute?**

A: Duration of nomination of MI along with necessary grant shall be for a period of three years. Kindly refer Chapter 2 para 6 of revised guideline.

**9. How much the token grant is applicable for MIs?**

A: There is a provision of token grant in aid @Rs. 5 Lakhs per MBI. Kindly refer chapter 2 para 7 of revised guideline.

**10. How much the honorarium is applicable for MI's Staff?**

A: MI can pay suitable honorarium to staff including chief coordinator and supporting staff engaged in Margdarshan scheme but such expenditure should not exceed to 4% of overall grant as allotted. Kindly refer chapter 2 para 7 of revised guideline.

**11. What is the authorisation of the TA + Honorarium?**

A: MI shall support the internal experts involved in activities by way of TA (AC 2 tier accommodation/Chair Car for train or maximum of the prevailing rates of taxi notified by central/state government for Own car/taxi) and honorarium of Rs.3,000/- per day. Kindly refer chapter 2 para 7 of revised guideline.

**12. What is the ratio of virtual and physical meeting of MI with each MBIs?**

A: Video conferencing/ virtual meeting platforms may be advantageously utilized so as to minimize the travel. The ratio of virtual: physical engagement shall not exceed 40:60. In effect, up to 20 virtual sessions (40% of 50 days of visit) can be conducted with a MBI.

**13. If MI have 8 MBI, will it receive total Rs. 40 Lakhs as 1<sup>st</sup> installment?**

A: No, A MI shall be released 65% of the budgeted grant based on final nomination by the council. Kindly refer chapter 2 para 8 of revised guideline.

**14. Chief coordinator of a MI leaves the institute. Can I nominate another suitable faculty as chief coordinator of the scheme?**

A: Only under unforeseen circumstances, MI may undertake a change of chief coordinator with suitable incumbent while ensuring due overlap of 14 days. A written record must be maintained and reflected in the Annual Progress Report. Kindly refer chapter 2, para 9 of revised guideline.

**15. Can a MI Change/Add MBI?**

A: No change in MBIs (addition, deletion or change) what-so-ever shall be permitted (including voluntary withdrawal by MBI itself) as the same shall lead to dilution of objective. However, addition of MBI shall be allowed to be brought under mentorship of a MI only in case number of MBIs are less than 10 or a MBI achieves accreditation from NBA within a period of 18 months. The project duration in that case shall be extended on case to case basis with due approval of the Council. The Council in such cases shall call for additional presentation with supplementary DPR in respect of such additional MBI from the concerned MI. Kindly refer chapter 2 para 10 of revised guideline.

**16. What are the credentials for nomination as Margdarshak?**

A: Kindly refer chapter 3 para 3 of revised guideline for detailed explanation.

**17. Who are the Mentee Beneficiary Institute (MBIs)?**

A: AICTE approved institutes having potential to go for NBA and willing to get mentorship under Margdarshan scheme are called Mentee Beneficiary Institute (MBIs. These MBIs are mapped with Margdarshak for mentoring.

**18. What are the maximum distance between Margdarshak and MBIs?**

A: The cut off distance shall be maintained at nearly 200 km from the base location of MD. This has the benefit of MD being familiar with the institutions, and being in relative geographical proximity. On case to case basis (such as that for NE / J&K/ Ladakh region), relaxation may be granted. Kindly refer chapter 3 (5) of revised guideline.

**19. How many MBIs can be mapped to one MD?**

A: A MD can be mapped with maximum 3 institutes for mentoring under Margdarshan Scheme. Kindly refer chapter 3, 5(d) of revised guideline.

**20. What is the period of submission of Self-Assessment Report (SAR) for NBA?**

A: It is expected that the institute should submit SAR for NBA within **24 months** since mapping of Margdarshak. Kindly refer chapter 3, para 6 of revised guideline.

**21. What role does a Margdarshak play under Margdarshan scheme?**

A: Role of Margdarshak are-

- i. To help institutions undertake a realistic assessment of their potential through analysis tools such as SWOC.
- ii. To listen, understand, guide and advise - principally to support and assist institutions to stay focused on the goals and targets set out in strategic plan.

- iii. To point out the talents and abilities in institutions, and then help them to utilize these in the best ways possible to help resolve issues within the institution. Kindly refer chapter 3, 7(a) of revised guideline

**22. What is the duration of nomination of MD?**

A: The council shall nominate an academician as MD for an initial period of 18 months. A further extension of 6 months can be granted subject to an appropriate review at the Council. Notwithstanding, the Council can revoke the nomination of any MD in case of inappropriateness in conduct of mentoring activities / dispute with MBI.

**23. What remuneration i.e. TA and Honorarium is entitled to a Margdarshak?**

A: The MDs shall be reimbursed by AICTE for visiting the MBI by way of TA (AC 2 tier accommodation/Chair Car for train or maximum of the prevailing rates of taxi notified by central/state government for Own car/taxi) and honorarium of Rs.5,000/- per day. Kindly refer chapter 3, para 7(c) of revised guideline.

**24. What is the ratio of virtual meeting of MDs and MBIs?**

A: MD has been allowed 50 days of visits to one beneficiary institute over the entire period. The ratio of virtual: physical engagement shall not exceed 40:60. In effect, up to 20 virtual sessions (40% of 50 days of visit) can be conducted with a MBI.

**25. What is the Process, Of Changes/Additional in MBI when mapped with MD?**

A: No changes shall be ordinarily permitted and shall only be done in exceptional circumstances such as health grounds or de-rostering of MD etc. However, a MD upon being mapped with an MBI shall interface with the institute management and ascertain within 30 days if the MBI meets the basic eligibility for seeking the NBA accreditation (factors such as admissions for last three years may be checked). In case such basic conditions are not satisfied, the MD should inform AICTE about the same for mapping another institute.

**26. What are the activities to be carried out through Margdarshak?**

A: A MD by virtue of his/her experience can guide an institute to initiate activities / training programmes / workshops / projects for infrastructure so as to achieve institutional reforms and quality improvements. All such activities must also be in consonance with the objective of achieving the NBA accreditation. Kindly refer chapter 3, para 8 and Appendix H of revised guideline.

